

Israel not to seek U.S. help with Syria

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli cabinet ministers said Sunday Israel will not seek U.S. intervention to help upgrade peace talks with Syria. The statements followed Syria's rejection over the weekend of a call by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to raise the level of negotiations. "We will upgrade the talks according to the process open to us," said Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet. "We will not seek U.S. intervention." Israeli and Syrian negotiators are scheduled to resume their talks in Washington on Tuesday. Damascus Radio said Saturday negotiations could only move to a more senior level when progress had been made by lesser officials. "Negotiators in most cases present a declaration of principles and get deeply into minute details before talking about higher levels of negotiations," the radio said. "Israeli calls to raise the level of negotiations are no more than a manoeuvre and pretext to indulge the talks in a futile circle and distance them from peace," it added.



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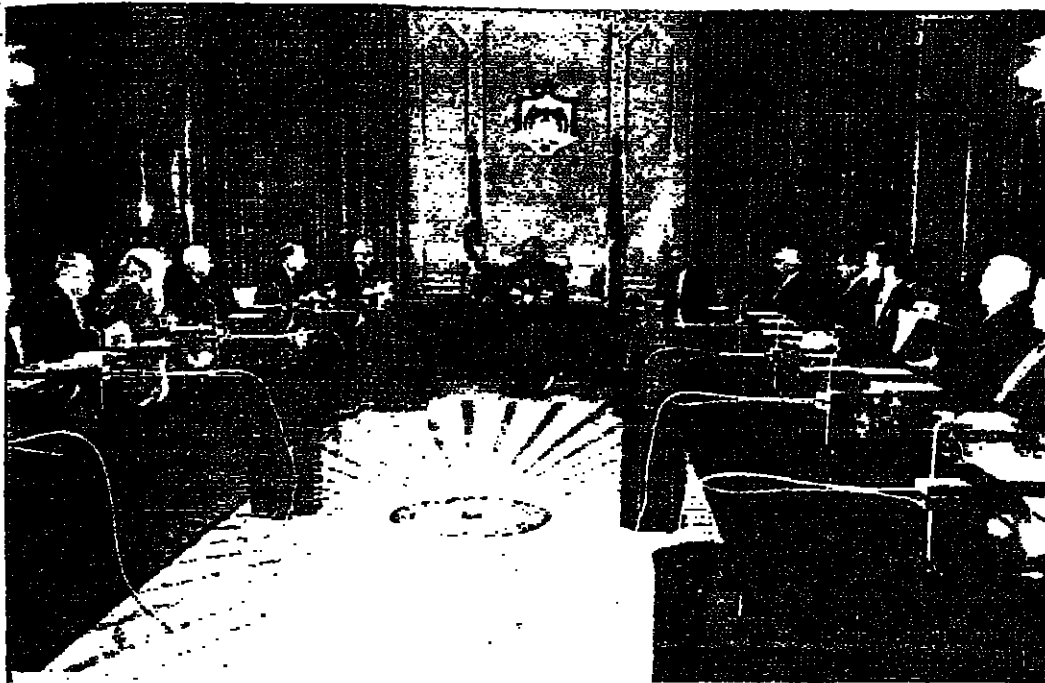
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King urges citizens to be alert and vigilant

Group with past record behind Maaytah killing Small group with foreign links is behind local sabotage



His Majesty King Hussein Sunday meets with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Upper House of Parliament (Petra photo)

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Sunday the assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeh Imran Maaytah in Beirut was carried out by a group acting upon its leader who is based in an Arab capital and the group had record of attacking Jordanian diplomats abroad in the 80s.

Addressing the senators, the King also said "a small group" with foreign links was responsible for the recent explosions and sabotage in Jordan.

"There are certain parties and circles trying to reach and influence our youth who are in a vulnerable position," the King said. The influenced youth, he said, "are goaded into committing crimes" and "the parties and circles" which "seek to reach the weak as well as the strong points of our people — our religion and faith."

"Such acts have no connection whatsoever with our religion and faith," said the King. "We have warned against such

attempts to distort our faith and our Islam, and we have often called for action to prevent matters from getting out of hand or beyond reason."

In a clear warning to hard-line preachers, the King said the mosque pulpits should not be "exploited by anyone for any purpose unrelated to our faith or religion."

"The pulpits are for those who belong to the Prophet," he said. "Our Islam, with its purity and clarity, is the religion of tolerance and moderation."

"Instigating people to kill and commit crimes cannot be condoned and there is a need to warn that a small group of people who has infiltrated the

public's ranks to cause harm to the whole country and undermine Jordan's achievements."

The King voiced high appreciation for the security forces for their vigilance. They "lived up to the expectations by foiling acts of sabotage," he said. Details of the plots against security will be released after investigations are completed.

The King called on the citizens "to be alert and vigilant at this crucial stage and to consolidate cohesion and abort such actions committed by people, who have connections abroad, even going beyond the Arab and Islamic World."

The King said Lebanese President Elias Hrawi had in-

formed him on the results of the investigations into the Jan. 29 assassination of Mr. Maaytah and that all those involved in the killing were apprehended and would face trial in Lebanon.

The King thanked Lebanese authorities, who, he said, worked in conjunction with the Syrian and Jordanian authorities to uncover the perpetrators of the assassination. All details of the case will be announced in due course, the King said.

On the regional front, the King said Jordan had resisted "proposals and attempts to persuade (it) to sign a peace

Continued on page 5)

France hopes Jerusalem will be discussed during interim period

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Sunday his country hoped that the "legal status" of the Holy City of Jerusalem would be discussed during the interim period of Palestinian autonomy rather than final status negotiations.

"We have a responsibility towards the holy places (in Jerusalem) historically," Mr. Juppe told a press conference Sunday, adding that "we hope that the legal status of Jerusalem can be discussed during the interim period" and not in final status talks.

Middle East peace negotiations were accepted by Israel back in 1991 on the condition that the issue of Jerusalem be deferred till final status talks despite repeated efforts by Palestinians and other Arab parties to resolve the issue of

the Holy City along other territories occupied by Israel in 1967.

Palestinians have grudgingly accepted the delay in negotiations over Jerusalem until final status talks but have repeatedly said that they would not accept a final settlement without Jerusalem.

Israel "annexed" East Jerusalem immediately after the 1967 war and claimed the city as its "eternal capital."

His Majesty King Hussein, who severed legal and administrative ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank in 1988, has maintained Awqaf (religious) links with the Holy City for fear of creating a "sovereignty vacuum" during interim talks.

Mr. Juppe, in his remarks to the press before leaving Amman to a private visit Sunday, welcomed last week's Israel-

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on security arrangements for Palestinian self-rule.

But he said that Israel must stick to a timetable on withdrawal and transfer of power provided for in the Palestinian-Israeli autonomy agreement signed in Washington in September.

"It is true the (security) accord did not solve all problems but it is a positive step in the process," Mr. Juppe said at the end of a 24-hour visit to Jordan, part of a Middle East tour that was to take him to Israel later on Sunday and to Gaza on Tuesday.

"But most importantly, the timetable has to be respected in order not to upset the process... and strengthen the opponents of peace," he said.

(Continued on page 3)



Medics evacuate an injured Israeli undercover agent shot in an attack on Sunday claimed by Hamas in the West Bank town of Ramallah (AFP photo)

Shaath sees less difficult talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — A new round of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) talks will tackle a long list of issues to seal a final Palestinian self-rule agreement, PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said Sunday.

But he said the hard work had already been done.

"In terms of size, what remains represents 90 per cent of the agreement but only 25 per cent in terms of difficulty," Mr. Shaath told Reuters.

He said the aim of the talks, which will resume Monday in the Red Sea resort of Taba, would be to finish off the security procedures and draw up the final agreement.

Dr. Shaath said 10 points had been referred to Taba, including security of the coasts, sea and air, the use of Palestinian radio and television, the transfer of electricity, the water authority, regional planning for land and environment and a legal protocol.

Negotiators must also reach agreement on the final form of the Palestinian security authority, how many members and what weapons it will have.

"All these points have been discussed in Taba but that have not been finalised. We need

more negotiations on that," he said.

Israel and the PLO signed partial agreements on security in Cairo on Wednesday but Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said a final accord on implementing Palestinian self-rule government in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho could take another month.

The agreement gives Israel overall control of border posts and effectively a veto over who enters Gaza and the Jericho area.

According to the Israel-PLO declaration of principles signed in September, the withdrawal was to begin on Dec. 13 but disagreements over security arrangements have delayed it.

"The agreement that we signed on the declaration that we announced in Cairo was a Palestinian-Israeli delegation that we are moving towards reaching a solution," Dr. Shaath said.

The Israeli army is ready and waiting on the word to begin its withdrawal.

"As soon as the government gives the order, we will start the withdrawal," an Israeli military spokesman said.

Military officials said plan-

ning is complete for "Operation Rainbow" which will see troops pulled out of Jericho and redeployed in Gaza.

Dr. Shaath said the size of the Jericho area would be decided by Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin when they meet. He doubted the size of Jericho would be much more than 55 square kilometres.

"The most difficult stage has already passed. The difficult issues — external security, the security of the Jewish settlers — have been solved," he said.

"The sensitivity in the points left to discuss is less. This makes it easier to reach a quick agreement."

"If things move quickly and there has been an achievement in two weeks then the Arafat-Rabin meeting could take place," he said.

The Palestinian People's Party, one of the three PLO factions which supported the Oslo peace accord, rejected on Sunday the Cairo deal.

The ex-communist group, which backed the Sept. 13 declaration of principles along with Mr. Arafat's Fatah and Yasser Arafat's faction, urged the PLO's Executive Committee to throw out the deal signed last Wednesday.

Israeli secret agent killed, two wounded

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Assaults suspected to be Palestinians killed an undercover Israeli agent and wounded two others in an attack on their car in the occupied West Bank on Sunday, a military spokesman said.

Two men riddled the car with 40 bullets at point-blank range as the three members of the Shin Beth internal security service headed for a house in Ramallah.

The wounded men were taken to hospital in Jerusalem, where one of them later died.

Troops combed the area for the attackers, who escaped in a car later found abandoned, and the village of Baytuniya near Ramallah was put under curfew.

Izzedine Al Qassam, the armed wing of Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, claimed responsibility for the shooting in an anonymous telephone call to an international news agency in Jerusalem.

The Israeli commander for the region, General Danny Yatom, later visited the scene of the shooting, military officials said.

"We send this military operation as congratulations to the Palestinian people on (the Holy Month of) Ramadan," the anonymous caller said.

Palestinians killed two

Arabs they suspected of aiding Israel in the Gaza Strip and militants shot and wounded three Israelis in the West Bank, Israeli and Palestinian sources said Sunday.

Palestinian sources said the main Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) faction Fatah claimed responsibility for the killing of Aymen Fawzi Mohareb, 27, from Rafah. Hamas claimed the killing of Khader Al Drimly who was found dead in Gaza City on Saturday.

Two more Palestinians were found dead in Gaza streets over the weekend but no group claimed responsibility for them.

Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shochat meanwhile hinted that after implementation of Palestinian autonomy Israel may cut the number of Palestinians allowed to work in Israel.

"We did not rule out people crossing over in order to work in Israel..." Mr. Shochat said on Israel Radio.

"We only told them in the clearest terms that it would be linked to periodic examinations and the security issue... and the condition of the Israeli economy," Mr. Shochat said on Israel Radio.

Over 50,000 Palestinians

(Continued on page 3)

House rejects contestation of Al Kourah parliamentary polls

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday rejected a contestation of the election results in Al Kourah and the northern Jordan Valley upon the recommendation of a special panel that was set up to study the challenge.

The panel recommended that the House reject the contestation after it "became convinced that (it) is groundless."

Mijhem Zbeidi had challenged the results of the Nov. 8 polls in Al Kourah on the grounds that a typographical mistake cost him some votes, that a relative of Deputy Hatem Al Gzawi was present at the ballot-counting centre and that candidates were denied access to these centres.

The House panel said it carefully reexamined the ballots of the Al Kourah constituency and concluded that the results of the polls were accurate. But it found that the president of the election committee in the constituency had "violated election regulations" by not allowing candidates into the ballot counting centres although all candidates accepted the procedure."

Thirteen contestations of the elections results have been presented to the House, which referred the challenges to special committees set up for the purpose. The rejection of the results in the Al Kourah constituency was the first House decision on the contestations. Other committees have not presented their reports to the legislature yet.

During its three-hour session, the House endorsed a draft law on a financial protocol with France. Under the protocol, France would provide Jordan with a soft loan of 80 million French francs (JD 14 million) to finance the purchase of French goods and services for a number of specified projects.

The loan will be paid over a 20-year-period with a 10-year grace and carries an interest of one per cent.

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy Hammam Saeed argued that the House should vote down the protocol because it is "unusur" and increases the foreign debts of the country.

Deputy Jamal Sarairoh said

(Continued on page 3)

Toujan Faisal accuses fellow deputy of 'insult and assault'

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's only elected female member of Parliament, Toujan Faisal, on Sunday accused fellow Deputy Jamal Kreisha of "insult, defamation and assault" and said she was planning to sue the parliamentarian.

Ms. Faisal, 44, said Mr. Kreisha "swore" at her and "insulted" her Circassian community and threw an ashtray at her after a heated exchange during a meeting of a parliamentary committee on Saturday.

"Such action cannot be allowed to go unnoticed because it sets a dangerous precedent," Ms. Faisal, a fiery activist for civil rights who became the Kingdom's first female member of the Lower House of Parliament in the Nov. 8, 1993 elections.

"If my fellow deputies sit back while one of their ranks ridicules democracy, then we are in trouble," Ms. Faisal told reporters.

She expressed hope that her colleagues in the 80-member House would take a stand against Mr. Kreisha.

Sources close to the former television talk-show hostess and crusader against martial law which was lifted in Jordan in 1990-92 said she was seeking

to lift Mr. Kreisha's parliamentary immunity so that he could be prosecuted.

Mr. Kreisha was not immediately available for comment. Repeated messages left at his residence went unanswered.

According to Ms. Faisal, he, being an elected member of parliament, should harbour such feelings," said Ms. Faisal.

According to Ms. Faisal, Mr. Kreisha got angry at her remark. "First he told me 'shut up,' 'get out' and 'not to talk back to me,' and then he got more abusive."

"Damn you, your father, the womb that bore you, the people of the Caucasus and your

democracy which had undermined the well-being of Jordan," according to Ms. Faisal, who has been involved in a running conflict with hardline Islamists since her first failed bid to enter Parliament in 1989 elections.

"I expressed surprise that he, being an elected member of parliament, should harbour such feelings," said Ms. Faisal.

Although she did not spell it out, it appeared that Ms. Faisal was seeking the support of the required two-third majority vote in the House to lift Mr. Kreisha's immunity against prosecution.

Members of Parliament enjoy immunity against prosecution while the legislature is in session. But a two-third majority vote could strip a deputy of

the immunity.

Sources close to Ms. Faisal said she planned to file a lawsuit charging Mr. Kreisha with "slander, defamation and assault."

Some parliamentary sources said mediation efforts are underway to defuse the crisis. It was not known whether Ms. Faisal would accept any mediation, however.

Ms. Faisal, a mother of three and no stranger to controversy, spoke to the press at her residence during a gathering attended by senior members of the Jordan Women's Federation as well as Fawaz Maher, a

Ministers split into two camps with Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, of the left-wing Meretz Party, declaring: "I suppose Rabin has a different position to me, but as far as I am concerned the Palestinian people have a right to ... self-determination like any other people."

"I have been talking about the creation of a Palestinian state for 20 years and I say it will come about one day or another," Mr. Sarid added.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin took the same side, saying Mr. Zvili had opened the debate on a final settlement in the occupied territories after the scheduled five-year period of autonomy.

Mr. Zvili's words sparked uproar in the right-wing which fiercely opposes Palestinian independence, fearing Palestine would be another hostile neighbour for Israel.

Likud parliamentary group Moshe Katzav showed reporters a letter written last week by Mr. Rabin affirming that he thought there would not be a new state set up between Israel and Jordan.

Likud deputy and ex-Justice Minister Dan Meridor thanked Mr. Zvili for his "frankness."

"He has said out loud what Rabin refuses to say in public," he said.

Mr. Zvili made it clear he believed an independent Palestine would be bad for Israel and the Palestinians themselves.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Yair Tsaban urged the government to consider

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 4)

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

Understoring the fact that American Muslims are part and parcel of American society, the AMC conference also tackled a number of domestic and community issues, such as health care, crime, the economy, the media, and women's rights.



The Babil newspaper called the attack "an eternal stain of disgrace in America's history of crime and killing," and said: "This shelter shall remain a sanctuary that we the Iraqis shall hold as holy and the souls of the martyrs shall pursue the killers even in their dreams."

The Addis Ababa talks failed, and now the guns and the militiamen have returned to the streets of Kismayu.

The committee said supporting committees in several other European countries would hand in similar letters to Iranian embassies.

The rebels appealed to the United Nations to appoint a mediator to broker a settlement of the conflict between the Arabic north and the largely black south, which erupted into full-scale civil war in 1983.

It also criticised the treatment of women and the use of the death penalty for apostasy, or rejection of Islam.

Islamic law, passed shortly after Gen. Bashir took over in a military coup in June 1989, is not implemented in the south.

the army-backed council of state scrapped the country's first multi-party legislative elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. The FIS was later banned by court order and its members

The radio said the trial was expected to last several days because of the large number of defendants.

A wave of violence in Algeria blamed by officials on Muslim fundamentalist activists has claimed more than 2,000 lives — fundamentalists, members of the security forces and civilians — in the past two years.

President Liamine Zeroual,

10:00	.....	Khartoum (SD)	5:00 p.m. every Monday
12:25	.....	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)	Dep. Damascus
18:45	.....	Dubai (EM)	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
01:15	.....	Amsterdam (KL)	Arr. Amman 5:00 a.m. every Sunday

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in \$/lb per kg.

06:00	Beirut (RU)	Apple	550	630
11:00	Amsterdam, Chicago (RU)	Banana		
12:15	Frankfurt (RU)	Banana (Mukammal)	620	
12:45	Cairo (RU)	Cabbage	70	140
20:00	Tunis (add) (RU)	Carrot	200	120
20:00	Dhahran (RU)	Cauliflower	140	80
20:15	Bahrain, Doha (RU)	Clementine	260	100

24:30	..... Dubai, Karachi (RJ)	Cucumbers (large)	180 / 120
26:05	..... Damascus (RJ)	Cucumbers (small)	380 / 280
21:30	..... Abu Dhabi Muscat (RJ)	Eggplant	170 / 80
21:30	..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)	Garlic	900/900
		Grape Fruit	220/120
		Green beans	1200/ 900
		Lemon	

06:00	..... Istanbul (TA)	Marrow (large)	180 / 120
06:15	..... Beirut (ME)	Marrow (small)	180 / 120
10:25	..... Cairo (MS)	Olives (green)	300 / 200
11:00	..... Khartoum (SD)	Orange	700/500
13:30	..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)	Onion (dry)	470 / 120
15:45	..... Dhahbi (VI)	Onion (green)	350 / 300
			220 / 150

02:15	Amsterdam (KL)	Pepper (hot)	380 / 300
		Pepper (sweet)	340 / 280
		Potato	250 / 180
		Radish	120 / 80
		Tomato	270 / 200
		Spinach	130 / 70
		String beans	

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus

800 800 800

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	..... Le Monde Sous Marin	622341	Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
18:30	..... Magazine Local	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 717131.	
19:15	..... News in French	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
19:30	..... News in Hebrew	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
20:00	..... News in Arabic	Assman International Church Tel. 652526.	
20:30	..... The Torkelons	Armenian Lutheran Church Tel. 824336.	
21:00	..... Thirtysomething	German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684192.	
22:00	..... News in English	The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.	
22:30	..... Feature Film: "Obsessed"	Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.	
		The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	

PRAYER TIMES

05:59	..... Fajr		
06:17	..... (Sunrise) Dubai		
11:40	..... Dhuhr		
14:55	..... 'Asr		
17:23	..... Maghreb		
18:41	..... 'Isha		

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swediteh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 6327RS,
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 717440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrentians Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will rise slightly with a chance of scattered showers, and winds will be westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, winds northerly active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.			
Amman	.....	5 / 13	
Aqaba	.....	12 / 21	
Deserts	.....	3 / 14	
Jordan Valley	.....	12 / 18	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY NEWS AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 13, Aqaba 22 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

R. Mukhlis Halasa 819220

R. Yousef Sammour 615648

R. Isam Al Asmar 895054

R. Jaidi Maraga 776149

R. Firas pharmacy 619192

Pardous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy 629632

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 634945

Shmeisan pharmacy 637660

Nairouh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

TRDID:

R. Mohammed Al Khalidi 273099

Akuds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

R. Ziyad J'aicm (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Roadside 774111

Water Authority 660100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636281

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport..... 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hassan Medical Centre 813813/322

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816

Altkh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhus, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisan 664171/4

Shmeisan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al Mufser Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 664127/7

Al-Ahl, Abdali 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajirun 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/9

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (0)9783323

Zarqa National Hospital (0)990560

Ibn Sina Hospital (0)986732

Al Husa Modern Hospital (0)990990

RUDE:

Princess Basma Hospital (0)273555

Greek Catholic Hospital (0)272725

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (0)2347100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (0)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royals Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:10	.....	Sanaa (RJ)
08:30	.....	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	.....	Jeddah (RJ)
09:30	.....	Riyadh (RJ)
09:55	.....	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30	.....	Beirut (RJ)
10:55	.....	New Delhi (RJ)
17:40	.....	Cairo (RJ)
18:45	.....	Bangkok (RJ)
20:30	.....	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
02:30	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
05:40	Tunis (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35	Cairo (MS)
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10:00	Khartoum (SD)	5:00 p.m. every Monday
12:25	Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)	Dep. Damascus
18:45	Dubai (EM)	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
01:15	Amsterdam (KL)	Dep. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00	Beirut (RJ)
11:00	Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
18:00	Tunis (add) (RJ)
20:00	Dhahran (RJ)
20:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:30	Dubai, Karachi (RJ)
20:45	Damascus (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi Muscat (RJ)
	Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00	Istanbul (TA)
08:15	Bicrut (ME)
10:25	Cairo (MS)
11:00	Khartoum (SD)
13:30	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
19:45	Dubai (KL)
02:15	Amsterdam (KL)

MARKET PRICES

Upperflower price in fils per kg.

Apple	550 / 650
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammal)	70 / 40
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	200 / 120
Cauliflower	140 / 80
Celery	260 / 200
Cucumbers	180 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	380 / 200
Eggplant	170 / 80
Garlic	900 / 80
Grape Fruit	220 / 120
Green beans	1200 / 900
Lemon	180 / 100
Marrow (large)	300 / 200
Marrow (small)	300 / 200
Olives (green)	700 / 500
Orange	470 / 120
Onion (dry)	350 / 300
Onion (green)	220 / 150
Pepper (hot)	380 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	380 / 280
Potato	250 / 180
Radish	120 / 80
Tomato	270 / 200
Spinach	130 / 70
String bean	



OURING NHF: Isabelle Juppé (centre), wife of French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, accompanied by the wife of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan tours the crafts section of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF). Mrs. Juppé was briefed on NHF activities by Inam Al Mufti, Her Majesty Queen Noor's advisor on social development affairs.

Princess Wijdan stresses value of developing world's realities

WASHINGTON (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Ali Sunday called on an international community to neglect the social, cultural and intellectual realities of developing countries if a genuine and lasting peace is to be established.

Addressing a conference on the role of Arab women as a source of change, Princess Ali stressed the need to reach a common language of understanding, capable of bridging the world's nations closer to each other.

In a working paper presented to the conference, organised by the American National Museum on Women and Fine Arts, Princess Ali said that the Eastern and Western nations cannot be bridged simply by economic and social agreements since such agreements as they now stand, are imbalanced because they ignore the situations of peoples.

Talking part in the conference are leading women from different Arab countries.



HRH Princess Ali



TOUR AT QAIA: Members of the Jordanian Travel Agents Association (JTAA) Sunday visit Royal Jordanian (RJ) facilities at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The group toured the RJ workshop, the aircraft maintenance and catering divisions and the airfreight services department.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>EXHIBITIONS</p> <p>Art exhibition entitled "Selections from the Artistic Works of Terra Sancta High School Students" at Amman National University (Salt Road).</p> <p>Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Oussama at the French Cultural Centre.</p> <p>Art exhibition by Iraqi artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery — Mecca Street.</p> <p>Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 729092).</p> <p>Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. 643251/2)</p> <p>Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).</p> | <p>MUSIC HOUR</p> <p>Show of videotaped classical music by famous musicians at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan (12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.).</p> <p>FILMS</p> <p>Short film in French entitled "La Machine à Remonter Le Temps" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Film in French entitled "Carmen" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>BOOK EXHIBITION</p> <p>Book exhibition at the University of Jordan.</p> <p>DRAMA</p> <p>Drama in Arabic entitled "Happened on a Theatre Day" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.</p> |
|---|--|

Juppé: Jerusalem in interim period

(Continued from page 1)

On Jordanian-French bilateral relations, Mr. Juppé said that he had a dual purpose in visiting Jordan for the second time in four months.

"One purpose is to reiterate the country's commitment to a peace process which we've supported enthusiastically since its first days," Mr. Juppé said.

"I also wanted to underline warm relations between two countries," he added.

Mr. Juppé said he met with Minister Abdul Salam Jallal Sunday morning as well as the ministers of finance, planning and trade and industry.

He was also received by Hussein Saturday. "We attach great importance to His Majesty's balanced and moderate vision," Mr. Juppé said.

He reiterated France's backing for Jordan's efforts to reschedule its foreign debts, adding that France would help the Kingdom in debt rescheduling talks with the Paris Club of official Western creditors which will be held in Paris in March.

He added that his country would also study the possibility of transferring part of the Kingdom's \$900 million debt to France "into investment projects."

Mr. Juppé also said France had renewed an \$3 million franc (\$14 million) financial protocol for Jordan as part of efforts to help Amman cope with its economic problems.

Mr. Juppé also said his country would consider easing inspections of Aqaba-bound ships to help reduce the negative impact on Jordan of the international sanctions against Iraq.

He said France was ready to examine in "an open and constructive manner ways of easing inspections of ships, while maintaining their effectiveness, so that the Jordanian economy is hurt less."

The minister rejected an Israeli Television report that France had lifted its self-imposed restrictions on arms sales to Israel.

"We have not taken such a decision, but we hope military cooperation with Israel will be reviewed," he said.

Mr. Juppé said French Defence Minister Francois Leotard is also expected to visit Israel soon.

On Bosnia, Mr. Juppé also said Paris was not considering an immediate evacuation of its diplomats from war-torn Sarajevo with Western air strikes threatened if the siege of the city is not lifted.

"It is imperative that we remain patient," he said. "We will take all necessary measures as the situation warrants, but it is important that the

Egypt, Jordan to plan economic, trade meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf, who returned from Cairo Sunday, said she attended the meetings of the Arab Economic and Social Council at the Arab League headquarters and reached agreement with the Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade on convening a meeting of experts to pave the ground for the Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee meeting to be held in Amman later this month.

Dr. Khalaf also said that she discussed matters related to economic and trade relations at the Cairo meeting.

The minister also met with the Egyptian minister of industry and mineral resources to discuss prospects for joint investments and met with the minister for international cooperation to discuss the exchange of expertise and matters related to economic cooperation.

Dr. Khalaf, who was accompanied by a ministry delegation, said that the Arab League Economic and Social Council



Rima Khalaf

meeting endorsed several decisions including measures to help Arab countries face growing unemployment and issues related to pan-Arab economic integration.

Among the other items discussed and approved at the meeting, she said, was the creation of a pan-Arab corporation for the classification of cargo vessels and other decisions related to pan-Arab cooperation in transport, housing and electric power.

Syrian team here to review study on student performance

AMMAN (Petra) — A Syrian educational delegation, headed by the Ministry of Education Secretary General Sulaiman Al Khatib, arrived here Sunday on a three-day visit to Jordan to review the implementation of an international study on measuring student performance in science and mathematics.

The National Centre for Educational Research and Development (NCERD) has undertaken a study of student performance levels in these two subjects and developed it into a comparative study involving students from Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

The delegation will also look at a comprehensive evaluation of the quality of education in Jordan, currently being carried out by NCERD in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.

The study aims at preparing basic data on the quality of education and levels of performance.

It also seeks to provide accurate information on the impact of the educational development plan in affecting changes in classroom practices and student performance.

The delegation includes Director of Planning at the education ministry Kamal Ballan and Siham Dillo of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Damascus.

Produce exporters demand cancelling tax on revenues

AMMAN (Petra) — Produce exporters Sunday demanded that the government cancel taxes on export revenues and intervene to adjust transport charges by local companies in a bid to increase export potentials.

They also demanded that the Ministry of Agriculture arrange for sufficient supplies of plastic boxes for packaging their produce.

The exporters were speaking Sunday at a meeting with Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan and Salem Lawzi, director general of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO).

The meeting was convened to examine ways to boost exports and to overcome procedural impediments.

The exporters said that they were seeking government help in reducing the cost of exporting agricultural products so that Jordanian crops could compete with those of other countries in foreign markets.

Dr. Lawzi, who reviewed the marketing situation at the central vegetable market in Amman and the role of middlemen, demanded that several grading and packaging centres be opened and that the central market expand its services.

He also demanded a reduction in the number of non-Jordanian workers at the central market.

Meanwhile, the AMO Sunday announced that Jordan last month exported 39,720 tonnes of produce to Arab and foreign countries worth JD 5.623 million.

AMO statement said that vegetables accounted for 56 per cent of the exports, and that Lebanon, the main importer, purchased 32.6 per cent of the total exported items.

The statement added that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and several foreign countries also imported Jordanian produce last month.

Tomatoes topped the export list at 26.3 per cent of the total, said the statement.

January's exports registered an increase of 6,478 tonnes over the same period last year.

Total exports for January, however, were down by 1,012 tonnes compared with December 1993, according to the AMO.

Jordan to attend non-aligned summit in Nicaragua — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Sunday said that the foreign ministers of the non-aligned countries plan to meet in Cairo on May 31, adding that Jordan will attend that meeting.

Speaking upon his return to Amman from Jakarta where he attended a 3-day meeting by the Non-Aligned Movement's Consultative Bureau, Mr. Hassan said the Cairo meeting would decide on the exact date of the movement's summit meeting, which is scheduled to be held in Nicaragua in 1995.

He said that no official statement emerged from the Jakarta meeting because the ministers attending the parley met in their capacity as members of a consultative panel.

He said he also delivered a message from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to Mr. Attas dealing with the work of the Jordanian-Indonesian Joint Committee, in addition to cooperation between AL Al Bayt University in Mafraq and Indonesian scientific and cultural institutions.

Mr. Hassan said the ministers discussed important issues including the Middle East peace process, and that he delivered an address outlining Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the peace talks and the Kingdom's continued support for the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He said his address also outlined Jordan's position with regard to the war in Bosnia.



Talal Al Hassan

Moellemann visits Jericho, off to Cairo

AMMAN (J.T.) — Juergen Moellemann, a German parliamentarian and president of the Arab-German Friendship Association, ended a two-day visit to Jordan by making a six-hour trip to the West Bank town of Jericho Sunday before flying to Cairo for meetings with officials there.

Mr. Moellemann, who arrived in Jordan Friday evening, is a staunch advocate of good German-Arab relations and up until his Sunday visit to Jericho had been denied entry into Israel and the occupied territories by the Israeli government which viewed him to be too pro-Arab.

During his visit to Jordan, Mr. Moellemann, who was vice chancellor and minister of energy until 1993, held talks with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Lower House of Parliament Speaker Taher Al Masri and University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh, which Jordanian-German relations and the Arab-Israeli peace process were the main points of discussion during his meetings.

Mr. Moellemann, a member of the ruling Christian Democratic Party, described Jordanian-German relations as "good."

"They are based on frankness and mutual respect," he said.

A staunch supporter of the peace process, Mr. Moellemann said before his departure that "some thorny issues still exist in the peace process and the international community should play a role in actively solving these issues."

The German deputy said that the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement as well as the Jordanian-Israeli agenda had been "positive steps" in solving conflict in the region.

Mr. Moellemann said that he hopes to encourage the Arab League in Cairo to give further impetus to and support the peace process.

The German parliamentarian said he had held talks with various Arab parties involved in the peace process, including Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, and Palestinian groups opposed to the peace process and that he received commitments that they would not undermine the peace process.

He said that the Jan. 16 Geneva summit between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton was a "very positive" step and that he believed that Lebanon and Syria would follow in the footsteps of the PLO and Jordan and sign agreements and agendas with Israel since the peace process had reached a "point of no return."

Contestation dismissed

(Continued from page 1)

the accord should be approved because it would finance telecommunications projects for which the country is in dire need.

Speaker of the Finance Committee Sa'd Hayel Srour rejected Dr. Saeed's argument that the loan could force Jordan to purchase French goods that it does not need, saying that projects to be financed by it would be tendered in the international market.

Mr. Srour also said the interest charged on the loan is the lowest that could be made on such loans, pointing out that Jordan has already committed itself to contracts for projects to be financed by the loan. The protocol stipulates that contracts for projects to be financed by the loan should be signed before the end of 1993.

In response to a question from Deputy Speaker Habashneh, Minister of Culture Amin Mahmoud said a private company was providing security services to the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) because the Public Security Department could not provide the centre with the security services it requested.

He said retired army and police personnel could not be hired because the law does not allow them to combine a pension and a salary from the public sector, adding that the police department was not responsible for providing reception and organisation services that the centre would require.

He said the RCC have been using the services of a private security company at the cost of JD 20,000 annually.

Faisal accuses fellow deputy of defamation

(Continued from page 1)

leader of the Circassian tribal community in Jordan.

Ms. Faisal occupies a House seat reserved for the Circassian community in Amman, but her victory in the elections with 1,885 votes was mostly attributed to supporters among women, Christians and liberals.

Mr. Kreisha holds one of two seats reserved for the Central Bedouins of Jordan and belongs to the pro-establishment Jordan National Alliance Bloc in the Lower House.

During the run-up to the 1989 elections Ms. Faisal was taken to an Islamic Sharia court and accused of apostasy.

Her accusers sought to annul her marriage, and immunity for anyone who shed her blood. The court rejected the case, but Ms. Faisal lost her bid to enter Parliament in the 1989 elections.

The former school teacher made a strong comeback in 1993 to win the Circassian seat from Amman's Third District against incumbent Mansour Murad and another woman contestant.

Immediately after the new Parliament convened in November, Ms. Faisal clashed with Islamic Action Front Deputy Abdul Muneem Abu Zant, who said in published comments that he would offer her Islamic dress and offer sweets if she wore them.

Haifa Abu Ghazala, president of the Jordan Women's Federation, said Sunday that the federation viewed the Faisal-Kreisha row as serious.

"We will make this an issue because it touches on all members of our society and if a woman deputy can be insulted and the insult goes unchecked then the society as a whole is insulted," said Ms. Abu Ghazala. She did not specify what course of action her federation planned to follow.

Mr. Habashneh demanded that the services of the private company be terminated because the RCC is an official institution to which security services should be provided by the police department.

"Providing protection to official institutions is... part of sovereignty which should not be compromised," said Mr. Habashneh, adding the RCC had set an "unfavourable precedent."

Mr. Habashneh charged that hiring a private company to provide security services for the centre was "a means of doing favours through public funds." He called on the minister of interior to provide protection to national institutions at "this critical period when our security and stability are targeted."



Alain Juppé

NATO decision be implemented as soon as possible.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has set a Feb. 20 deadline for the warring factions in Sarajevo to place heavy weapons under U.N. control or move them away from the city.

Israeli killed

(Continued from page 1)

from the West Bank and Gaza Strip presently hold permits to work in Israel.

Attacks by Palestinians on Israelis have caused Israel to seal off the occupied lands, cutting the workers off from their livelihood and causing share rises in unemployment.

Ehud Barak, the armed forces chief of staff, said Friday that after autonomy Israel would no longer be an occupying power and hence would not be responsible for Palestinian economic welfare.

As a result, sealing off Israel to Palestinian workers would be less of a problem, Gen. Barak said.

Also Friday, Police Minister Moshe Shahal warned that Israel might again close the occupied lands if attacks on Israelis persisted.

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Equal at birth, but later?

DEPUTY TUJAN Faisal is spearheading the crusade to grant men and women equal rights as far as citizenship rights for their children are concerned. The only woman member of the Lower House maintains, and rightly so, that the existing law discriminates between sexes by granting children of Jordanian husbands citizenship while denying the children of Jordanian women married to foreigners an equal treatment. More and more parliamentarians are taking interest in the issue and an official proposal to delete such and similar distinctions between Jordanians on the basis of gender could be in the pipeline.

Jordan is due to discuss its third periodic report to the International Human Rights Committee, the tribunal charged with the mandate of monitoring the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), when the panel convenes in New York on March 21. The country's second periodic report was discussed in Geneva in 1991, but many questions were left unanswered. The issues figuring high in the debate on Jordan are all somewhat similar to what Ms. Faisal has been raising before and after her election. It would be such a relief to the Jordanian delegation which is supposed to present this third report to the committee if steps were taken here and now to eliminate most if not all vestiges of discrimination between men and women. On the very issue of citizenship rights of children of Jordanian fathers and mothers, there are no sound religious grounds to perpetuate this aspect of unequal treatment. The government and Parliament would do Jordan a great service if they proceeded with the task of amending current legislation on this very subject.

Surely, there are other dimensions of discrimination between men and women in Jordan, some of which are based on religious grounds. On such few occasions, the rule of the thumb is to enter a reservation when ratification of or accession to the ICCPR is made. Jordan was among the pioneer states which signed and ratified the covenant. This imposes an additional responsibility on us to take effective measures for the purpose of translating the provisions of this basic human rights instrument into law. While the most recent Jordanian report is a remarkable improvement on the previous ones, there remain some deficiencies in terms of laws and practices. The norm, under such circumstances, is to distribute such a report to Parliament and judiciary to read and examine. This much has not been done even though the step would be the first inquiry on the minds of the 18-member international body.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Sunday expressed the view that the Europeans lack a unified leadership, noting that although their nations are close to the Arabs, they seem far away from the Arab region. Taher Al Udwan noted that the Europeans have been hiding behind the Americans in matters related to the Middle East question and the ongoing war in Bosnia, and have been acting in a manner that would only appease the U.S. administration in both cases. The Europeans have had no actual role in the peace process and have failed to exert pressure for the implementation of U.N. Resolution 242, noted the writer. Noting that Europe's role has been marginalised by the United States regarding the Palestine question, the writer recalled that it was due to Washington's request to the Europeans that they allocated some funds to finance the autonomy rule in Palestine. The writer said in the war in Bosnia it was the U.S. pressures that caused NATO's European nations to agree to an ultimatum against the Serbs. What is required from Europe is economic, financial and political initiative that can make the Arabs feel that Europe is genuinely interested in the development of their region and concerned over peace and stability in the Middle East, demanded the writer. He said that the Europeans should act in a manner that would explicitly display their interest in cooperation among the countries of the Mediterranean Sea to achieve prosperity.

IT IS not enough for the government to seize and destroy quantities of foodstuffs proved to be unfit for human consumption, said a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily Sunday. What the public demands, he said, is exposure of the sources of corruption, manipulation and merchants greedy only to amass fortune at the expense of public health. Salameh Ekor said that the Ministry of Supply should publish the names of the merchants and storekeepers who tend to commit such malpractices and violations that tend to harm national interest and cause adverse effects on the health of the Jordanian citizens so that members of the public can stop dealing with such elements. In order to fight off those evil elements that tend to poison people, the government ought to impose very heavy fines on them and close down their stores and should enforce the laws that govern such practices, demanded the writer. He said there is no point in enacting laws and passing regulations concerning the protection of public health if no measures are taken to deter further violations. The writer also called the Ministry of Supply's attention to the need to stem the uncontrolled and unjustified soaring prices of basic foodstuffs during the month of Ramadan.

Occupied territories — back to the old days

By Graham Usher

GAZA — While PLO and Israeli negotiators are going on and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres muses that "Israel will do everything it can to end the great suffering of the Palestinian people", actual Palestinian people in Gaza are starting to view such manoeuvres and sentiments as belonging to another continent, politically as much as geographically.

Here, the pervasive mood is one of increasing self-withdrawal from the utter misery of Gaza. While Israeli and Palestinian pundits chew over opinion polls showing that 35 per cent of Gazans now oppose the Oslo accords, the most significant finding of these surveys goes largely unnoticed — that 15 per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories have "no opinion" about the agreement one way or another. Such an alarming rise in political apathy is a child born of hopelessness and raised by continued Israeli military actions, particularly in Gaza, which demonstrate all too clearly Israel's customary disregard for Palestinian suffering both in the present and, more ominously, in the "autonomy" it will eventually bequeath.

Collective punishment

On Jan. 26, the Israeli army introduced an apparently arbitrary policy of withdrawing the magnetic pass cards needed by Palestinians who work in Israel. Something like 1,200 permits were confiscated from their Palestinian holders over the next few days, with the occupation authorities giving no official explanation.

There are around 20,000 Gazans currently working in Israel, itself a massive reduction from the 40,000 who regularly worked inside the Green Line before Israel sealed off the territories last April. With unemployment levels in Gaza at 40 per cent overall and 60 per cent in the refugee camps, work in Israel is one of the few remaining economic lifelines available. Its severance means untold hardship for thousands of families.

The head of Gaza's Trade Union Federation, Risham Al Biyari, condemned the confiscations, claiming that they were "a means to put pressure on PLO negotiators at the peace talks". The civil administration in Gaza denied it knew the reason while the Israeli army came up with the original explanation that the confiscations were due to "a computer error" — tellingly averting any reference to security considerations since, for Palestinians to receive magnetic cards, they must be "clean" of all security offences in the first place.

Palestinian sources say the army's actions mark a return to the collective punishment policy used extensively by the Israeli throughout the intifada. Workers trying to cross into Israel after Jan. 26 said they

were interrogated by Israeli intelligence officers as to their past and present political affiliations. Those who had been in any way associated with Palestinian groups currently opposed to the peace agreement — and especially, it seems, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) — were the ones who had had their permits confiscated.

A week earlier — on Jan. 21 — an Israeli farmer had been stabbed to death by three Palestinians in Rishon Letzion, near Tel Aviv. The PFLP in Gaza claimed responsibility for the killing, saying that it was in revenge "for the slaying of innocent Palestinian civilians."

The crack-down on permits appears to be related to this incident, and the political message it harbours for Gazans is transparent. Peace agreement or no peace agreement, the Israelis intend to isolate the opposition by inflicting massive and indiscriminate body blows on the Palestinians as a people. That such collective punishment is illegal under every tenet of international law went unheeded in most Israeli and international press coverage of the matter. Palestinians in Gaza, meanwhile, withdrew even further into their shells.

Velvet glove, iron fist

The confiscations are a return to tried and tested Israeli occupation practices after recent weeks had seen a relative, but palpable, loosening of the Israeli army vice-like grip in the territories. In December, not only were a number of "wanted" Fatah Hawks granted amnesty by the army, but also fugitives belonging to the PFLP Red Eagles. For the first time, public festivals commemorating the PFLP's founding on Dec. 11 went ahead with minimal Israeli army interference. The signal from the Israelis seemed to be that if the PLO factions, including the rejectionists, wanted to exploit the political space opened up by the accords, then the Israeli army would let them. The bot-

tom line, however, would be the Israelis' obsession with "security."

According to a poll published in the Israeli daily *Yediot Aharonot* on Jan. 18, while 60 per cent of Israelis still "cautiously" supported the peace process, 70 per cent would consider "autonomy a failure if terrorists continue to murder Jews". The Rabin government's snail-like approach to implementing the accords thus rests on the perception of how successful it is at curbing Palestinian violence against Israelis. Killings like the one in Rishon Letzion blast this perception to smithereens and, as a result, "force" rather than "space" becomes the organising principle behind Israel's military policy in the territories, and especially in Gaza. Palestinian analysts say this is the only way to explain the Israeli army's entirely paradoxical — now velvet glove, now iron fist — dealings with all the PLO factions since the signing of the accords, but particularly Fatah, the dominant political force in the Strip.

Between Jan. 23 and 27, 49 Fatah activists were arrested in Gaza following a spate of grenade attacks on Israeli army patrols claimed by various dissident elements of Fatah's erstwhile military wing, the Fatah Hawks. The indiscriminate nature of the sweep, with the Israeli army picking up Hawks both "wanted" and unarmoured, provoked fury amongst the established PLO leadership here. On Jan. 29, a delegation of community figures, headed by Fatah's leader in the Strip, Zakaria Agha, met Israeli army commanders "to end the increasing tension between the two sides". The upshot of the meeting was not encouraging.

"The Israelis are not respecting their commitments," said Mr. Agha. "What is happening is not new but a continuation of the old policy of pursuing Palestinian activists regardless of faction." The Israeli army confirmed this, with one official putting Fatah activists on notice that "as long as they roam around carrying

weapons they will be responsible for their blood."

Cracking up

If the Israeli army really has abandoned the tacit ceasefire between itself and armed Palestinian units who nonetheless support the peace deal, it signals two significant changes in Israel's military policy towards Fatah. First, that the army's efforts to prise apart Fatah activists from those of the rejectionist groups via its amnesty campaign has been an unmitigated disaster, succeeding only in "imploding" Fatah in Gaza into a number of centrifugal and competing blocs rather than a coherent political movement. And second — and because of this — that the Israelis no longer believe the established Fatah leadership in Gaza is able to deliver on matters of security, least of all from amongst its own cadres. For Israeli journalists Ehud Yeri — known for his close contacts with the security apparatus — the consensus "among Israeli military and civil experts" is now that "Arafat is the only Palestinian who can rule the territories."

What this pat prognosis fails to include, however, is changing Palestinian perceptions on the ground, and especially the corrosive logic whereby the more Fatah is perceived to be weak inside the Strip, the greater is the erosion of Arafat's authority outside it, a fact brought home on Jan. 29 when for the first time in anybody's memory Fatah lost control of Gaza's Engineers Association.

In elections for nine seats — with nearly 1,000 votes cast — Fatah won four, the Islamic bloc four, with the remaining position tied — the Nationalist and Islamist candidates getting 410 votes apiece. Like Gaza, the engineers had historically been a bastion of mainstream nationalist support. Four months down the road from the Declaration of Principles, that bastion is starting to crack up — Middle East International.

High environmental standards do not deter investment

By Tommy T. B. Koh

SINGAPORE — There is a link between development, on the one hand, and environment, population and poverty on the other. Some Asian states, such as Indonesia, have shown remarkable progress in economic development and the reduction of population growth. Others, such as Malaysia, have made impressive strides in reducing poverty. Yet major environmental challenges remain.

As China and India industrialise and grow, they will exert tremendous pressure on the earth's carrying capacity unless they avoid the path of progress at any cost and follow a course of sustainable development.

In the past, due to institutional and policy weakness, the needed infrastructure in many Asian countries and cities, such as sewerage and industrial waste disposal systems, failed to keep pace with economic expansion. As a result many Asian cities suffer from serious pollution.

Tokyo and Singapore are exceptions to the rule — models that other Asian cities can emulate. According to studies by the World Health Organisation, five of the seven cities with the worst air pollution — Beijing, Calcutta, Jakarta, New Delhi and Shenyang — are in Asia. Two of the cities with the best air quality, Tokyo and Singapore, are also in Asia.

When Singapore began to industrialise in the 1960s, the government legislated and enforced high environmental standards to protect the land, air and water. Contrary to a belief then prevalent in the Third World, the increased costs to industry did not deter investment.

The government also built common treatment facilities to help industries, including facilities to process and dispose of toxic and hazardous wastes. As a result of these policies, three decades of rapid industrialisation in Singapore have not despoiled the land, air or water.

Singapore has adopted a radical approach to protecting the quality of its air and preventing the city from strangulation by motor vehicles. The government has invested heavily in public transport. There are an underground mass rapid transit service, an island-wide bus system and many taxis.

Growth of the motor vehicle population is controlled by setting a quota for each month, auctioning that quota by tender, and imposing a tax of about 200 per cent on the price of a vehicle plus a heavy road-impost based on engine size. The government keeps the central business district free of congestion by making drivers of vehicles buy a licence to enter the area. It encourages scrapping of old vehicles and

provides a tax incentive to use lead-free petrol and discourage leaded petrol.

In another two years, Singapore will introduce an electronic road pricing system. Each vehicle will be fitted with an electronic tag. Drivers will be billed monthly based on usage of the roads. If Singapore succeeds in its experiment, it will have set an example for the world, not just for Asia.

I am confident that in the years ahead, Asia will meet the environmental challenge, not

because of external pressures but because Asians are demanding the right to live in a clean and healthy environment as well as the right to development.

The writer, director of the Institute of Policy Studies in Singapore, served as chairman of the main committee at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. This article is reprinted from *The International Herald Tribune*.

Israelis split on Zvilli remarks

(Continued from page 1)

dismantling the Jewish settlement of Netzarim which will be isolated from other centres of Israeli occupation when autonomy starts on the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Tsaban made his plea noting that the 28 families living at Netzarim had refused to allow soldiers to move into empty houses in the settlement to guarantee their protection.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres voiced opposition on Saturday to the high cost of maintaining the tiny settlement, which demands imported labour and a round-the-clock military guard.

"This tiny settlement is stuck like a bone in the throat in the strip," Mr. Tsaban told reporters after the cabinet meeting. "In my opinion its defence will require extraordinary ex-

penditures and unusual complications. It also risks the lives of our soldiers.

"We have to seriously discuss the possibility of evacuating it."

The Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule signed in September provides that all Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will stay in place during an interim period of autonomy.

Israeli soldiers will remain in Gaza to protect them.

But security arrangements for Gaza settlers are one of three major issues that have already delayed the start of an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho by two months and dampened initial euphoria over the peace deal.

The Bosnia war crimes could go unpunished

By Sadruddin Aga Khan

GENEVA — The slaughter of 68 people at a crowded market in Sarajevo on a week ago brutally demonstrates how ineffectual western leaders and the United Nations have been in stopping the genocide in Bosnia.

Less noticed is the discreet gutting of the one opportunity for justice — however inadequate — that the international community had promised to the citizens of that abused country.

The teeth are being pulled from the International War Crimes Tribunal, set up by the U.N. Security Council with fanfare last year. The U.N. War Crimes Commission, which is charged with assembling evidence, will soon be disbanded.

This is being done by the very statesmen who hailed the tribunal — at least publicly — as the means of ensuring that however unfavourable a peace settlement would be to the Bosnians, they could at least see justice done to the perpetrators of mass rape, murder and torture.

For people who have lost family, homes, communities and country, the prospect of protracted international legal proceedings against the Serbian and Croatian leaders Slobodan Milosevic, Franjo Tudjman, Radovan Karadzic and their lieutenants might seem cold comfort at best.

Yet, as the Nuremberg trials demonstrated, holding a vicious regime to account is an important act of renewal for both sides.

Now that opportunity may be lost.

The U.N. secretary-general, Boutros Ghali, has indicated that he expects the War Crimes Commission to wrap up its work by April. This abrupt closing of the investigation before the tribunal is properly up and running is already having consequences on the ground. It has raised doubts about the tribunal's legal authority for completing the exhumation of a mass grave of Croatian victims of suspected Serbian war crimes in Vukovar. Future investigations, and therefore prosecutions, are also likely to be undercut. To make things worse, the Venezuelan appointed to be chief prosecutor has now renounced the job to pursue a political career.

International leaders are engaged in a monumental whitewash of Serbian and Croatian leaders for reasons of political expediency, to keep them at the negotiating table. Reluctant to use air strikes or other military intervention, western politicians offer these leaders a new respectability and the promise of eventual financial support, grateful for any indication that they will stop the atrocious war.

Many of the international negotiators who initially went along with the idea of a war crimes tribunal probably never thought of it as a practical possibility, but as a convenient way to silence human rights activists and other supporters of the Bosnians. Perhaps they thought the tribunal could be used later as a bargaining chip to win Serbian and Croatian agreement to a peace settlement.

For critics of the West's cowardly stance during this savage war, however, the tribunal mattered: It offered some prospect of accountability.

Although it was never likely that the paper trail would exist to implicate top officials, the successful prosecution of field commanders and local extremists who encouraged mass rape and murder might have begun a healing process after the war.

Now, though, the neutering of the international tribunal is under way. Only a facade will remain, it seems — one that can be counted on not to produce embarrassing prosecutions, a neat Machiavellian bargain.

Consider the separate agreement signed last year by the Bosnian Muslim leader Fikret Abdic with Serbia. It is an indication of what an eventual peace treaty between the warring parties could encompass. The agreement states that each side will prosecute its own, and that each regards the conflict as an internal matter.

The implications for potential war crimes trials are significant. Under international law, only international wars can produce such crimes. Thus, threats of war crimes prosecutions from the U.N. tribunal would become meaningless.

Fortunately, the tribunal also has jurisdiction over two other categories of crimes — genocide and crimes against humanity, the latter covering crimes such as mass rape. For these categories, international prosecution overrides national law. Yet even here jurisdiction without political will is ineffectual.

The goal of prosecuting and punishing offenders must not be abandoned. It is not only a question of punishing barbaric crimes. It is just as important that we have a complete historical record of the war. We owe it to the victims, we owe it to ourselves and we owe it to history.

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The goal of prosecuting and punishing offenders must not be abandoned. It is not only a question of punishing barbaric crimes. It is just as important that we have a complete historical record of the war. We owe it to the victims, we owe it to ourselves and we owe it to history.

Above all, by insisting on such a record, we reassert our own humanity and decency and declare solidarity with those who have suffered.

We also send a strong message to other potential violators. There must be a clear threat that even if these criminals remain protected at home, they will be pariahs abroad.

The latest outrage in Sarajevo requires an immediate response by the United Nations and NATO. But it requires more than that. An attack of that scale on civilians is a war crime. It urgently reminds us of the need for a strengthened international tribunal that can pursue a full investigation and bring those responsible to justice.

The writer was the United Nations high commissioner for refugees from 1965 to 1977. This article is reprinted from *The New York Times*.

De Klerk tries to convince voters that his party has changed

By Susan Thomas
Agence France Presse

JOHANNESBURG — President Frederik de Klerk wrapped up a three-day campaign tour of Orange Free State this weekend, trying to convince voters, with mixed results, that his ruling National Party (NP) today is not the same one that invented apartheid.

His appeal to voters carried a twin message: That the NP had abolished apartheid, and that it had the economic know-how to run government efficiently — something, he said, the "communist" African National Congress (ANC) would be incapable of doing.

The ANC is widely tipped to win the April 26-28 election, the country's first all-race poll.

The campaign trail took Mr. de Klerk away from his traditional white, Afrikaans-speaking constituents and, as he put it, into "enemy" black territory in rural farming communities.

"This is not the same party that brought apartheid to

South Africa," he told about 1,000 black farmhands in Harmsmith, on the border with Natal Province. "This is the party that put the noose around its neck and strangled it."

His message seemed to get across in the backward, rural areas, where few questioned the fact that the NP had institutionalised apartheid when it came to power in 1948 and put Mr. Mandela behind bars for 27 years because he opposed it.

Asked who he was going to vote for, one man said after the rally: "The NP of course, because they released (ANC President Nelson) Mandela."

He was echoed by others, and Mr. de Klerk, addressing about 400 ragged farmworkers later in the day in a maize field on a prosperous white farm near Clarens, on the edge of Lesotho, asked: "How many schools has the ANC built?"

"How many hospitals has it built?" he asked of the organisation that was unbanned in 1990.

The 'right' to talk about others' rights

By Waleed Sadi

The annual U.S. State Department reports on human rights worldwide is an effort to show Washington's concern over governments' human rights records by chronicling positive and negative developments on a yearly basis. Presumably, the information supplied by the U.S. diplomatic missions abroad serves as the basis of these reports.

Seldom is there reliance on independent submissions in preparing the State Department's views on this subject. In a sense, therefore, Washington's judgment is subjective to a great extent that may or may not reflect the facts of the matter.

Against this backdrop, the message of the State Department's 1993 report on Jordan appeared to be garbled, lacking a central theme. I have some years of experience in human rights endeavours, ever since I joined the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in 1975, so I can say that, I found the reports of the international system of human rights remarkably different from those prepared by the State Department in content and style. Whereas United Nations efforts consist of documented information, the Washington ones appear to be a list of conclusions and judgments based on interpretations of laws and practices.

This is not to suggest that the U.S. report on Jordan has no redeeming value. On the contrary, the report contains some observations and comments that are serious and true to the best of my knowledge. My concern, however, is about the overall assessment and tone of the report which may give rise to speculations about Jordan's commitment to democracy and human rights.

By way of example, I hasten to cite a few samples of remarks contained in the 1993 report which could be misleading instead of being informative, as I am sure they were originally intended to be. When the first paragraph states categorically that "in practice the King sets the broad parameters of foreign and domestic policy while the prime minister exercises management of daily affairs," one gets the distinct impression that the Monarch governs in absolute terms without any constraints or guidelines and that the executive

branch of government under the prime minister is nothing but a municipal council dealing with such state matters as the collection of garbage or the supply of electricity and water. The picture is further distorted when the report goes on to say that Parliament is "subordinate to the executive branch."

A more realistic and faithful appraisal of the political structure in the Kingdom would reveal that for all intents and purposes His Majesty King Hussein does not exercise more prerogatives than for example the president of the U.S. or any other chief executive in many developed countries, not to mention developing nations. If the authority of the Monarch to dissolve Parliament under special conditions is what bothers the U.S., then it is fair to say that the exercises of this power has been carried out with maximum discretion and in a manner that is echoed in many democratic states.

Human Rights File

Besides, a Jordanian prime minister is anything but a "mayor" of sorts. All of us who are privy to the political scene in the Kingdom know only too well that the King hands over nearly 90 per cent of the rein if not more to the prime minister and his team of ministers. Some of us are dismayed by such an excessive transfer of power and wish that the King involved himself a bit more in the management of the country.

This line of analysis leads the State Department to the equally invalid allegation that Parliament is subordinate to the executive branch. I presume that the prime minister and his cabinet are viewed as part and parcel of the executive branch. If this is the case, as it should be, then the impression left by the remark that the legislature plays second fiddle to the cabinet needs to be corrected, especially if the current phase of Jordanian democracy is taken into consideration. Surely it is acknowledged and appreciated that the contemporary and ancient history of the country is full of precedents where governments were voted out of office by the Lower House of Parliament.

In the second paragraph of the report, there is also a submission that "whereas the government has revoked martial law directives, important elements of martial law remain

operative."

By way of example, the report refers to the "broad scope of police powers," as evidence of the continuation of the spirit of a martial law regime in the country. To begin with, martial law as such is a different subject from police powers per se. The former suspends constitutional rights while the latter reflects a policy issue on crime and punishment that is not necessarily related to martial law regimes.

Without suggesting for a moment that police can have a license to arrest and detain people without any legal guidelines or constraints, many of us in Jordan do not wish to curtail the powers of the police to the extent that many western nations have done at the expense of internal law and order. No nation would want to have criminals loose in the streets and witness the commission of crimes that can be preventable. U.S. President Bill Clinton has made this very issue the theme of his annual address to the Congress earlier this year and called for a more effective police and judicial measures to combat rampant crime in his country. The most recent U.S. statistics on crime revealed that the prison population in the U.S. has risen threefold since 1974. No one can deny that the increase of crime in the U.S. is related, *inter alia*, to the disproportionate increase in legal safeguards offered to suspects. For many of us in Jordan, the choice in favour of a crime-free society is also a priority and we are not prepared to allow marginal legal technicalities stand in the way of keeping criminals off the streets.

In this vein, Jordanians do not wish to condone torture or the ill treatment of detainees or prisoners. As a matter of fact, Jordan has ratified the Convention against Torture in 1992 as evidence of its policy against mistreatment of suspects and prisoners. It is also a fitting reminder that Jordan had ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as far back as 1977. (As a footnote, the U.S. acceded to the ICCPR only two years ago). So when the report states that "physical abuse of prisoners during interrogation and detention continues to occur," one can only say that this is probably true on limited occasions and needs therefore to be combated. Yet suggesting that such police excesses, when they occur reflect a state policy, makes the report in need of

correction. Many nations, including some of the most advanced ones, suffer from police brutality. Most probably, the extent of the problem in Jordan is greater than that in the West. Yet is also fair to say that this phenomenon in Jordan has more to do with police training and discipline than with any current state policy.

What puzzled me most about the report in question, however, is the statement in the fourth paragraph to the effect that "citizens do not have the right to change their government." How absurd can one be! Where in the world do citizens have the inalienable and absolute right to change their governments by any means? Do the Americans, for example, have the right to change the Republican form of their government? Nations have constitutions which draw the parameters of their respective systems of political structure. Jordan is no different and enjoys a written constitution that deserves also to be respected and upheld.

On the issue of freedom of speech and press, there was also a mention of the view that the "government in Jordan continues to exercise limited censorship of local media." Without suggesting that we in Jordan have reached perfection in the exercise of free press, the Malhas affair and its wide and unimpeded coverage is a vivid example of how much press is free in Jordan. When the shocking disclosure about the state of food and medicine was freely aired by the media, then there is no cause for alarm about freedom of thought in Jordan. We certainly have more to go before we attain the level of free press that some western nations enjoy, but we are certainly well on our way in that direction. The only constraint that Jordan insists on in this context is to exercise this right in a responsible way, something that most nations would insist on, undoubtedly. In this vein, the call for making Jordan television more independent is increasingly gaining more currency and could very well be in the pipeline.

To sum it up, Jordan is not perfect in its human rights record, but which country is? Moreover, Jordan stands out among the other states of the region as indeed exemplary in its efforts to spring new roots for its democratic process. This much was not reflected in the State Department's report on Jordan for 1993.

Ayala-Lasso named to serve as U.N. human rights commissioner

By Judy Aita

UNITED NATIONS — Ecuadorian Ambassador Jose Ayala-Lasso, the man nominated by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali to serve as the first U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, is a well-known and highly praised diplomat of many years' experience on the international scene.

The secretary general announced his intention to name the 62-year-old former Ecuadorian foreign minister to the sensitive and controversial post in a February 1 news conference. The appointment must be approved by the U.N. General Assembly.

Since 1989, Ayala-Lasso has served as Ecuador's chief envoy to the United Nations. Recognised for his expertise as a negotiator, the ambassador has been frequently interviewed by journalists seeking his views on difficult Security Council deliberations related to various world crises including Iraq, the former Yugoslavia, Libya and Somalia.

Ayala-Lasso was Ecuador's representative to the Security Council in 1991 and 1992, serving as president of the council in August 1991 and September 1992. He was chairman of the council's sanctions committee for the former Yugoslavia in 1992.

After announcing his decision to nominate Ayala-Lasso, Boutros Ghali praised the ambassador for his "expertise in human rights" on both academic and practical levels.

The secretary general noted that Ayala-Lasso is the author of works on international affairs and human rights and also was instrumental in helping to break the deadlock between developed and developing nations on creating the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"The fact that he was able to overcome the different oppositions for the creation of the job and... was the chief negotiator

of promoting and protecting human rights."

If approved, Ayala-Lasso will be principal U.N. official charged with the responsibility to promote and protect "the effective enjoyment by all of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights."

He will provide, through the Centre for Human Rights, advisory services and technical and financial assistance to states and regional organisations, coordinate relevant U.N. education and public information programmes and coordinate human rights activities throughout the U.N. system. He also will "engage in dialogue with all governments in the implementation" of his mandate "with a view to securing respect for all human rights," according to the General Assembly resolution adopted December 20, 1993.

Ayala-Lasso will hold the rank of under secretary general and will report to Boutros Ghali, the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

Diplomats agree that, as the first high commissioner for human rights, Ayala-Lasso will play an important role in establishing precedents to be followed by his successors and in more clearly defining the mandate set forth by the General Assembly.

"We created a high visibility post," one U.S. official said, in describing the new position. "We believe the high commissioner can attract resources, can get governments to agree to these kinds of programmes... The high commissioner is going to be able to put pressure on governments to accept these kinds of programmes and pressure on donor governments to contribute money for those kinds of programmes."

One key provision, the official said, is that the high commissioner is to be appointed by the secretary general for a fixed term of four years with a possibility of being named to

serve for an additional four-year term. That will afford the high commissioner a little more independence than a typical under secretary general has.

In December, Ayala-Lasso said he was "very much personally convinced of the effectiveness" of the high commissioner for human rights will be determined by the extent to which that individual is able to inspire the trust of others. If successful in that regard, Ayala-Lasso said, "the high commissioner will be able to be in touch with governments to avoid violations (of human rights) or correct human rights situations."

Ayala-Lasso brings wide experience to his new task. A career foreign service officer, he served in the embassies of Ecuador in Japan, Italy, Peru and Belgium. He was ambassador to Peru, Belgium, Luxembourg and the United Nations and served as minister of foreign affairs from 1977 to 1979. He is currently the president of the International Association of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations. Ayala-Lasso speaks Spanish, French, English and Italian.

He holds degrees in international law and political science, and in social, public and economic sciences. He studied at the Central University of Ecuador, the Catholic University of Ecuador, and the Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.

The ambassador has taught at the Schools of International Law and Economic Sciences of the Central University of Ecuador and has participated in seminars and roundtables organised by the International Peace Academy, the Stanley Foundation and the Council of Foreign Diplomats.

His articles on international affairs have been published in newspapers and journals; he is currently preparing a book on the Security Council — U.S. Information Agency.

Currie's spicy style pays off

By Paul Majendie
Reuters

LONDON — With a timely saga on bed-hopping politicians, Edwina Currie lays claim to be the first female member of the House of Commons to have written a novel. Blurring fact and fiction proved to be a potent cocktail. "A Parliamentary Affair" sold out its first print run and Currie, a Conservative ex-minister, enjoyed a barrage of publicity that any author would give their word processor for.

Her tale of sexual antics in the corridors of power coincided with a series of scandals among Conservative politicians that made a mockery of Prime Minister John Major's "back to basics" campaign to return to family values.

Currie, who last year turned down a chance to be in Major's government, said: "The timing was sheer chance. There is always some scandal lurking in a journalist's notebook in Britain."

"But I was not quite expecting this. We are up to three resignations, four illegitimate babies, a couple of financial scandals and very tragically we have had two suicides," she added of the flurry of revelations to hit Major's government.

These range from one minister's resignation over a love child and another stepping down after his wife committed suicide over his reported affair with a London socialite.

Currie, no stranger to controversy herself, said: "No woman member of parliament has ever written a novel before as far as I know and it seemed to me that that one of us did."

She is best known in Britain for a brief but stormy career as a headline-grabbing health minister.

Miners eat into Amazon

By William Schomburg
Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO — Tapajós, a remote corner of Para State deep in the Amazon rainforest, lies at the heart of Brazil's lawless gold rush.

An estimated 90,000 wildcat miners, known as garimpeiros, have flocked to the 60,000-sq km region to dig for gold as veins at other Brazilian sites start to dry up.

"There is no missing Tapajós," said Elmer Prata Salomao, director of the government's National Mining Department. "The place has been totally changed."

Surface mines and impromptu landing strips scar the forest and many rivers are heavy with sediment and poisonous mercury used to extract gold from ore. Other rivers have disappeared altogether, siphoned off by the miners, Mr. Salomao said.

As Brazilian gold production dwindles — 30 tonnes in 1993 compared with 100 tonnes in 1988, according to government estimates — the miners push deeper into the forest and often into Indian reservations.

Wildcat mining, along with the illegal trade in precious mahogany trees, is now seen by the government and environmentalists as a greater threat to the Amazon than the widespread burning of forest by cattle ranchers.

A recent government survey put the number of garimpeiros active in Brazil at 400,000, most of them in the Amazon region. Barely 10 per cent are recognised by Brazilian law.

"The law is awful," said Mr. Salomao. "There's hardly any control."

Brazilian law recognises worker cooperatives that represent garimpeiros but not individual garimpeiros themselves. The cooperatives, however, tend to be dominated by powerful middlemen.

They fly from mine to mine in private planes, invest heavily in equipment and seldom declare their wealth while paying miners an average salary of \$320 a month.

under a system like that of the United States, where tribe members are compensated for the development of their land, Mr. Ricupero said.

Brazil may also apply to the European Union and the United States for reduced tariffs for exports like cashew nuts and tropical fruits grown in the Amazon. Colombian coffee enjoys tariff privileges in the United States to encourage Andean farmers to grow crops other than cocaine and Brazilian officials are hoping for similar support.

For the time being, however, Brazil can do virtually nothing to stop the damage inflicted on the Amazon by wildcat mining.

Some Brazilian states have not yet set up environmental bodies and few municipalities can afford such luxuries.

Just two government officials are responsible for monitoring the two million-hectare Parque Nacional do Pico da Neblina on the border with Venezuela. As a result, garimpeiros are mining in the national park.

Environmentalists argue that the way to bring the mining under control is to resolve long-standing social problems that force garimpeiros to scratch out a living in the jungle.

King urges citizens to be alert and vigilant

(Continued from page 1)

agreement with Israel and then discuss the details of the accord.

"Jordan, of course, rejected this move because Jordan seeks a just and durable peace and seeks to regain its territory and water and other rights in implementation of the Israeli-Jordanian agenda for negotiations," signed on Sept. 14, the King said.

"We have to know about our share and the shares allotted for other concerned parties," the King said. "We believe peace is an objective and an end, but there cannot be any peace unless all these issues have been settled and addressed satisfactorily."

"Signing an agreement and negotiating its terms later is not peace but capitulation," he said. Jordan is particularly committed to seeking peace since it believes that its people did not have a moment of peace over the decades and deserve a peace that is just, durable and comprehensive and that brings about positive changes in people's life, he said.

The King expressed hope that progress would be made soon in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks and emphasised the need for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories as a prerequisite for peace.

He said he believed Israel should recognise Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights. "Perhaps towards the end of this year or in the first few months of next year, we will witness progress along all tracks that would lead to the goal that we all seek."

Coordination between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the King said, "is inevitable in detailed terms and in all aspects if we were to support the Palestinians and have a common voice with them."

There has been an "improvement" in Jordan-PLO coordination, but "I cannot say that we are one hundred per cent satisfied."

"We are satisfied that we have covered all the aspects where coordination must be achieved," said the King. "But we insist that coordination must cover all issues of common concern until such time when Jordanian citizens reach a point of choosing between remaining a member of this family or seek other options such as compensation or repatriation. Until such time we remain one family."

The King reaffirmed his refusal to accept any sovereignty except that of God over Jerusalem. The Holy City could be

a converging point for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, but Jordan insists that the supervision and care of Islamic holy shrines in the city should be the responsibility of the Muslim World as a whole.

It is towards this objective that he recently announced a new committee for Jerusalem affairs made up of "apolitical" personalities, the King said.

The meeting was attended by Upper House Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and members Zeid Al Rifai, Thounqun Hindawi, Laith Sharaf, Amer Khammash, Kamel Al Sharif, Rajai Al Muasher, Kamel Abu Jaber, Naela Al Rashdan, Abdullah Salah, Sa'eed Al Tal, Daoud Hanania, Habes Al Majali, Nahir Rashid and Mohammad Rasoul.

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Contractors with full experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically, and who wish to participate in this tender, are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hrs. on 19/3/1994.

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- Technical capability of the contractor including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
- Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms and details of projects including contract(s) cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available. Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head offices at the First Circle, Jabal Amman, against non-refundable JD 300 per set not later than 26/3/1994.

Offers should be submitted by the qualified contractors to the company's head offices not later than 12:00 hrs. Sunday, 29/3/1994.

Chairman Board of Directors

Japan to make own trade moves after U.S. talks fail

TOKYO (R) — Japan will make moves to open its markets on its own after the failure of a U.S.-Japan summit to reach agreements on critical trade deals, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Sunday.

"Soon after returning home, we will consider the problem. Our side must come up with some wisdom and Japan will do what it can on its own," Mr. Hosokawa told reporters aboard a special government plane shortly before arriving back in Tokyo.

Mr. Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton failed at their three-hour summit Friday to reach key agreements mandated under a July 1993 economic framework pact aimed at cutting Japan's trade surplus and improving access to specific market sectors.

In the talks with Mr. Clinton, Mr. Hosokawa rejected setting numerical trade targets, arguing that this would lead to managed trade. Washington said it needed quantifiable ways to measure how well Tokyo was opening up its markets.

Japan's top government spokesman Masayoshi Take-

mura said earlier Sunday that Japan must make new market-opening proposals before the next Group of Seven summit in July to defuse trade tensions with Washington.

"On our own initiative, we should draft plans to further open our market and increase domestic demand," chief cabinet secretary Masayoshi Takemura said in a televised debate.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Hosokawa will meet again in Naples for the Group of Seven summit of leading industrialised nations.

Both Mr. Hosokawa and Mr. Clinton said they were unsure how they would proceed on the trade issue from now, but senior U.S. officials have hinted at retaliatory steps against Tokyo.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that the Clinton administration has decided to impose sanctions on some Japanese imports to bolster its negotiating positions.

The paper said no decision has been made on which products to target for sanctions. But it said that one option

was an announcement Tuesday of plans to slap penalty duties on selected Japanese products if officials concluded that Japan has violated a 1989 pact to open its cellular telephone market to Motorola.

Mr. Takemura said Japan would refer any U.S. retaliation to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

A senior Japanese trade official said Friday in Washington that a U.S. sanction strike would provoke Japan to break off the framework pact, but added the cellular telephone dispute was not technically related to the framework talks.

Most big Japanese dailies appealed Sunday for a calm response to the breakdown of the U.S.-Japan talks.

"Until now, U.S.-Japan summits always ended with the sort of agreement that only touched the surface, leaving seeds for later disputes," the Asahi Shimbun said in an editorial. "This frank exchange of 'no's' was probably better than the way it was when any sort of agreement was a must."

Asahi said Japan should now

adopt its own market-opening measures and urged the United States to act calmly, taking into account the successful results of earlier trade agreements over beef, oranges, supercomputers and satellites.

"At times in a mature bilateral relationship, we must accept the concept of 'to agree to disagree,'" the Yomiuri Shimbun said. "We should see the results of the talks as a sign that U.S.-Japan relations in the post-cold war era are entering a new, mature stage."

Trade Minister Horoshi Kumagai also said the summit's outcome signalled a new era.

"Japan and the United States have entered a stage to create a new relationship where one side is no longer subordinate to the other," Sunday's daily Japan Times quoted him as saying.

"We must seek a new way to manage and solve troubles and conflicts," Mr. Kumagai said, but he added there was no need to scrap the bilateral commitment made last July to seek agreement to remove trade frictions within two years.

Study sees problems for OPEC from foreign partnership

ABU DHABI (AFP) — OPEC members deciding to boost their output by entering into partnership with foreign companies could face problems in the future. A United Arab Emirates (UAE) study has concluded.

Some members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are considering allowing foreign ownership to help secure funds and technology for multi-billion-dollar projects to boost capacity, said the study, published in the oil ministry's monthly magazine, Oil and Industry News.

But it could lead to fresh problems for the organisation already plagued by rifts among its members, the study warned. The study found that the 12-nation OPEC could meet world demand by 1995 provided Iraq, which has a capacity of more than three million barrels per day (b/d), is allowed to resume exports of crude oil.

But by 2000, the growth in world consumption will lead to a supply shortage of around 2.8 million b/d unless OPEC states press ahead with expansion projects after 1995, it

added. The study said OPEC producers could resort to self-financing or foreign loans to fund an estimated \$120 billion of projects aimed at increasing capacity to between eight million b/d to 10 million b/d by 2000.

"The last but firm option for OPEC states is to resort to equity participation. Admitting foreign partners means a concession in the national sovereignty but it is the price which must be paid by some producers," it said.

"There is another complication resulting from equity participation, which is that the producing country could no longer control part of its output. This becomes clear when that producer is asked to reduce output in line with quota agreements by OPEC," the study pointed out.

The study said Nigeria had suffered from such a problem but was unclear about whether it existed in the UAE, where foreign companies control 40 per cent of the crude production of 2.16 million. Other major Gulf producers nationalised their oil sector about 20 years ago.

Oman foreign debt \$3b — official

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's foreign debt grew to 1.15 billion Omani riyals (\$3 billion) at the end of 1993, an Omani finance official was quoted as saying.

Hamood Bin Ibrahim Samar, undersecretary at the ministry of finance and economy, told Al Watan newspaper that the foreign debt was "by all accounts a very reasonable figure given the world economy."

He said the debt was less than projected export revenues for 1994 but did not give further details.

Gross domestic product stood at 4.29 billion riyals (\$11.5 billion) in 1993. Oman, a small oil producer, said its 1994 budget deficit was expected to fall to 301 million riyals (\$792 million).

Mr. Samar said a \$300 million loan he expected to be finalised shortly would not be used to finance the deficit.

"This loan will not be used to make up for the budget deficit but for development projects from 1991, 1992 and 1993," the newspaper quoted Mr. Samar as saying. "The loan agreement will be signed shortly."

They said the loan would be the sultanate's first sovereign borrowing in more than two years. The four banks arranging the loan are the Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank, the Chase Manhattan Bank N.A., Commerzbank A.G. and the Bank of Tokyo Ltd.

World Bank official says inflation still China's gravest threat

BEIJING (AFP) — Runaway inflation is the gravest threat facing the Chinese economy and a strong monetary policy is vital to keeping it in check, a senior World Bank official was quoted Sunday as saying.

"The risk of high inflation is the greatest challenge facing China's economy in the near term," Pieter Bottelier, the World Bank's chief of mission in China, was quoted as saying in the China Business Weekly.

"It is now more important than ever to be prudent in monetary policies," Mr. Bottelier said, stressing that excessive growth in the money supply could fuel inflation and destabilise China's newly unified exchange rate, thus undermining investor confidence and slowing economic growth.

In July last year, the government slapped tight control on credit, amid an investment-fueled economic boom that had resulted in a surge of growth in the money supply and rampant inflation of nearly 20 per cent in major Chinese

cities. Mr. Bottelier welcomed the Chinese government's target of nine per cent economic growth in 1994, saying last year's figure of 13 per cent was too high and had placed excessive pressure on infrastructure and the environment.

He also praised China's boldness in unifying its foreign exchange system at the beginning of the year, although he added that the move would have to be quickly followed by further liberalisation of interest rates and development of the inter-bank market.

Referring to China's \$12.18 billion trade deficit last year — after four years of surplus — Mr. Bottelier warned China against allowing a long-term imbalance.

"However, with the unification of foreign exchange rates and prudent macroeconomic policies, there is a good chance for China to reverse this trend and the situation may be manageable," he said.

As the fastest-growing eco-

nomy in the world, China must immediately address environmental concerns connected with commercial and industrial development if it is to avoid footing a steep clean-up bill in the future, Mr. Bottelier warned.

"An excessive rate of economic expansion may lead to environmental damage, which will be extremely costly in the long run," he pointed out.

Mr. Bottelier also urged swifter action to be taken over loss-making state enterprises, which he described as a "serious problem."

Meanwhile, the China Daily has said China needs heavy foreign investment to fund an ambitious road and port construction programme aimed at easing existing transport bottlenecks that have hampered economic development.

The ministry has set a target of 18,000 kilometres of new highway for 1994, including 960 kilometres of expressway to be funded by the ministry and local governments.

Iran, European trade partners negotiate debt

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, squeezed by the fall in oil prices, is negotiating with major European trade partners to reschedule its debts, an Iranian newspaper said Sunday.

The weekly Kayhan Hava said most of Iran's short term debt of \$9 billion was owed to Germany.

Bankers said earlier Iran owed Germany at least \$2.5 billion in arrears by the end of December, mostly involving the German state export insurance agency Hermes.

The \$9 billion figure appears to refer to arrears on short-term debt, and not the total debt which is variously put by bankers at \$20-\$30 billion.

The paper quoted diplomats in Tehran as saying Germany and other European Union countries were negotiating on rescheduling the debt in spite of opposition from Washington.

"As the Paris Club (of creditor countries) considers rescheduling payments, the United States, seeing an opportunity

to squeeze Iran economically, remain opposed to any agreement which may be reached," the newspaper said in a report carried by the Iranian news agency IRNA.

But it quoted a German official as saying bilateral talks were under way.

"We are carefully studying Iran's request to reschedule the short-term loan repayments and we expect a mutual agreement to be reached soon between Tehran and Bonn," the newspaper quoted German charge d'affaires in Iran Eckart Cuntz as saying.

Iran's central bank governor Mohammad Hussein Adeli was quoted in a Tehran newspaper in January as saying Iran had arrears of \$8 billion on its foreign debt, mostly in the form of trade credits.

Kayhan Hava quoted the German embassy's under trade commissioner Joachim Fitza as saying negotiations were under way which could solve the debt problem within weeks.

UAE bank claims on private sector soar

ABU DHABI (R) — Banks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) increased by about \$1 billion their already bloated claims on the private sector in 1993, when the central bank introduced new rules to curb lending.

The latest UAE central bank figures show commercial bank claims on the private sector rose to 57 billion dirhams (\$15.5 billion) by the end of November 1993 from 53.4 billion dirhams (\$14.5 billion) at the end of 1992.

It was the highest increase in the past five years. The claims of the private sector dwarf UAE bank claims of government and official entities, which stood at 12 billion dirhams (\$3 billion) and three billion dirhams (\$817 million) respectively through the end of November 1993.

Private sector claims, which refer to commercial bills, mortgages loans, overdrafts and advances, were among the targets of a new central bank rule in 1993 to curb lending.

"The lending rule tries to discourage banks from putting all their eggs in one basket," said one senior bank manager.

Bankers in the UAE said there would be further clarification or changes to the rule which has a grace period through 1995.

Stronger yen slashes Toyota profit by 48% in first half

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday its pre-tax profit plunged 48.7 per cent to 83.2 billion yen (\$743 million) in the six months to December as a result of the strong yen and weak domestic sales.

"Exchange rates were a major factor in the decline in earnings, as were difficult

domestic market conditions," the country's biggest carmaker said.

Toyota, ranked third worldwide, said its operating earnings suffered an even sharper decline in the same period, diving 84 per cent to only 9.3 billion yen.

Sales dropped almost 13 per cent from a year earlier to

3.988 trillion yen with total vehicles sales plunging 14.2 per cent to 1.681 million units. Domestic sales fell 8.7 per cent to 1.002 million units while exports slumped 21.2 per cent to 678,778 units, the company said.

Toyota said the lower export figures reflected "a decrease in exports to North America re-

sulting from the increase in local production and a decrease of exports to Europe because of the continuing sluggish European market."

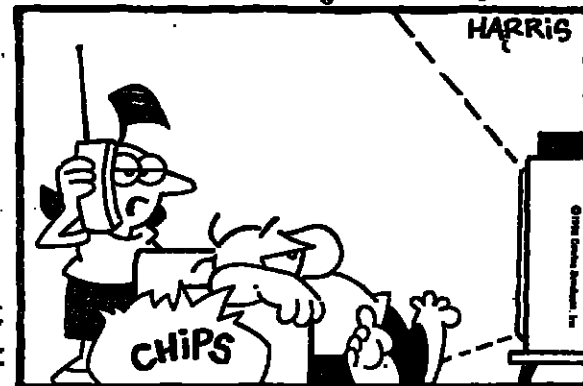
Sales in other sectors were also lower, with industrial vehicle sales declining 12.4 per cent to 19,927 units in the six months and sales of prefabricated houses falling 4.4 per

cent to 1,492 units.

Toyota said the stronger yen was the main factor behind the slump in operating profits, while the impact of weak sales was about half as strong. These negative factors were, however, partly offset by cost reductions and lower depreciation expense and other factors.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



Stanley doesn't listen. I told him I wanted a nose job and he said we could use the extra income.

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

FAHFC
TYFFA
DOLBIE
COSHUL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOUSY DRYLY BLUING MOTHER

Answer: What the successful baker watched — THE DOUGH RISE

Andy Capp



Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Eliminate any personal problems that are holding you back. Be active and express your happiness as you show increased devotion to those you love and admire. Avoid one who has a jealous nature.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Improve property, then get advice from an expert on monetary matters. Show your admiration for this person. Use your energy wisely for best results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Although recreation is on your mind now, plan some time for an important business matter as well. Do whatever will add to your personal charm.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Contact experts for information on how you can commercialise talents. Evening will be good for romance. Try not to be too extravagant.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A dynamic friend will go along with your ideas gladly provided you are willing to listen to advice offered. Being social and making new and worthwhile friends will be an asset to you in the future.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you do efficient work today, you make the right impression on bigwigs and you can increase benefits. Do something important of a civic nature.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) By going out socially you find you get excellent ideas from persons you meet that can be put in operation to your benefit.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan some time for that hobby that pleases both yourself and kin and have fun at it. Put in an efficient day's work first though for your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Come to a better agreement with associates, whether in business or otherwise. You are able to reconcile with one from whom you have been estranged for a long time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy on whatever is of a practical financial nature make big strides in this. Consult with one who is an expert in such matters and get the right advice.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Forget all that folderol and busy yourself with the bustling world of activity and make real progress there. Set up appointments early.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Analyse the situation at home thoroughly and then go ahead and do whatever increases harmony and prosperity there. Study that new interest well and proceed with caution.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have to make certain contacts first before you can come to a perfect understanding with associates. Outline some new modus operandi you want to put in motion with persons who could be vital to its success.

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 By —
5 Initial progress
9 Strongly affect
13 Trek of TV
14 Inventor Mow
15 Strawberry
17 He wasn't in "The Birds"
18 Lead on
20 Source of concert
21 Loathing
22 Snoozing
24 Circus fruit
25 Jail —
26 Quick bread
28 Locked
32 Shake up
33 Gambling game
34 Winston reminder
35 Mountain lake
36 Youngest son
37 Sharp
38 Lotion
39 Ingredient
40 Name in cars
41 In a palpable way
43 Subsequently
44 Ties
45 Far-flung
46 Tranquil
49 Intimidates
50 Greek letter
53 Nautical word
54 He never read for "On the Waterfront"
57 Scottish group
58 Blackboard
59 Carry on
60 Calabrese
61 Sharp
62 Dirty case item
DOWN
1 Make fun of
2 Cassini
3 Probe
4 English river
5 Slander
6 Source of society
7 Baseball team
8 Tie — toe
9 He had no part in "The Lion in Winter"
10 Malware fever
11 Tender
12 Kind of school
15 Oman's kin
18 German river
23 Actor Mino
24 He did not star in "The Color of Money"
25 Blended —
26 Italy's La —
27 Actress Leslie
28 Rice field
29 Silly ones
30 Western price
31 Puts on
32 RBL, e.g.
33 Niagara —
36 Spider nets
40 Opera
41 Police
42 Charged atom
43 Perry Mason, e.g.
45 African river
46 Fire
47 A Fitzgerald
48 Bona fide
49 Seafood item
50 Ring
51 Rational
52 Division term
55 Worldwide org.
56 — Magnon



U.S. grant helps set up innovative loan-guarantee firm in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A first-of-its-kind venture to guarantee bank loans for entrepreneurs based on cash-flow assessment rather than the traditional collateral is expected to be operational in Jordan in mid-March, a senior in Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) official said Sunday.

The main beneficiaries of the proposed company will be small and medium-sized entrepreneurs who have innovative, technically and financially feasible projects but lack the necessary capital or the material collateral to obtain commercial bank loans.

Jamal Salah, executive director of the CBJ, said final touches were being put to the JD 7 million capital entity, which will have a majority private sector holding of JD 4

million. The rest of the capital will be put by the CBJ, drawing from a \$5.5 million (JD 4.2 million) assistance granted in 1989 by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The remainder of the grant amount would be held by the CBJ to make good possible bad debts.

"Most Jordanian commercial banks and insurance companies will be directly participating in the project, to be known as the Jordan Loan Guarantee Company," Dr. Salah said. By involving the banks and insurance companies, the CBJ was encouraging their direct interest in the venture, he noted.

He said the CBJ had already collected a down payment of 50 per cent of the capital participation from all parties involved and was planning to file

the necessary documentation to the comptroller of companies later this week.

As he was speaking with the Jordan Times in his office, Dr. Salah received several calls from banks and insurance companies confirming their participation and the transfer of their capital contribution.

The legal formalities and related procedures, including a general assembly meeting and election of the office-bearers of the company, will take a few more weeks.

"The project should be in business by mid-March," said Dr. Salah. "It will be a regular commercial entity in all its aspects except that it will not be dealing with the beneficiaries directly."

According to Dr. Salah, the actual operations of the company would be invisible in that entrepreneurs would only be

dealing with commercial banks and more often than not might not even know that their loans are guaranteed.

Depending on an assessment of the feasibility and expected cash flow of the projects proposed by entrepreneurs, the company could guarantee up to 75 per cent of the loan. The risk for the rest of the financing will be borne by the concerned bank itself, Dr. Salah said.

"Needless to say the entrepreneurs have to produce some capital as a sign of their seriousness," he added.

Under the present arrangement, administered by the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) and taken over by the CBJ in September, the ceiling for such loans was JD 20,000, but the new entity will reconsider raising the limit by up to 40 per cent, Dr. Salah said. The CBJ took the initiative

to set up the company after the Council of Ministers decided in August last year to move the USAID grant from IDB to the Central Bank. The Cabinet has also approved the idea, Dr. Salah said.

The proposed arrangement will "encourage investments, create employment opportunities and expand the scope of operations of the commercial banks," Dr. Salah said, noting that many proposed ventures with high potential do not see daylight if only because of lack of capital in the absence of loan guarantees.

Present plans call for allocations of specific ceilings of guarantees for the participating banks, "which will pay the loan-guarantee company half of one per cent as commission on the used amount and one per cent on the unused part," Dr. Salah said.

The higher commission on the unused part is clearly aimed at encouraging the banks to utilise the full ceilings available to them, he pointed out.

Prevailing commercial bank interest rates will apply to the loans themselves. The central bank, however, feels that the rate should be lower since the guarantee will reduce the risk that the banks will carry.

"The difference between the interest paid on deposits and levied on loans by the commercial banks included an invisible provision for the risk that the lender carried," Dr. Salah noted. "In the case of loans that will be guaranteed by the (proposed) company, the risk factor is reduced, and, as such, we believe that the banks should charge a lower rate of interest on them."

Sharjah emirate presses on with major gas project

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Sharjah is pressing ahead with a major gas project that will push up production by nearly 40 per cent and sharply boost its earnings, industry sources said Sunday.

The sources confirmed a report by the Sharjah-based daily Al Khaleej that the project to expand the output capacity of the Sajaa plant would be completed in June, nearly one year after it was launched.

The project was prompted by new gas discoveries that

yielded 210 million cubic feet (6.57 million cubic metres) per day and around 4,845 barrels per day (b/d) of condensates.

The discoveries at the Kahif-3 and Kahif-4 fields brought the total gas output in Sharjah to around 800 million cubic feet (23.9 million cubic metres) per day and more than 42,000 b/d of condensates, according to Amoco Sharjah, a subsidiary of the Houston-based Amoco Corporation.

Most of the gas is produced from the offshore Sajaa field, which was discovered in 1980

and is one of the biggest gas fields in the region, with an output of nearly 550 million cubic feet (16.5 million cubic metres) per day.

Sharjah, part of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), also produces around 8,000 b/d of crude oil from the offshore Mubarak field, which is located off the disputed island of Abu Musa and is shared with Iran.

"The gas discoveries will boost Sharjah's income considerably, and this will prompt it to increase spending on de-

velopment, which in turn will have a positive impact on the domestic economy," said Mohammad Al Asoumi, chief economist at the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank, quoted by Al Khaleej.

The expansion in Sharjah comes as the UAE's seven emirates are beginning to switch to gas as a cheaper and cleaner source of energy to run industries and operate power turbines. Around 300 million cubic feet (nine million cubic metres) per day of Sharjah's gas is supplied to nearby Dubai

and other UAE emirates, while liquefied production is exported to Japan.

Economists said higher gas output would help Sharjah to settle its debts to local banks, estimated at around two billion dirhams (\$544 million).

The debts were a key factor in a failed coup attempt in the emirate in 1987.

Production from Kahif-3 and Kahif-4, both operated by Amoco Sharjah, has been shelved until the expansion of the Sajaa plant has been completed.

Al Khaleej said about 35 per cent of the Sajaa project had been completed. "Amoco will soon be able to put the two fields on stream and this will boost the total UAE gas production by around 15 per cent."

The UAE has the third largest natural gas reserves in the world after Russia and Iran, estimated at 186 trillion cubic feet (5.6 trillion cubic metres).

The other major UAE gas producer is Abu Dhabi.

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (February 7 - February 11, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar depreciated sharply against the yen at the end of last week, while appreciating against sterling and the mark. It depreciated 2.01 against the yen, while appreciating 1.0 per cent against sterling and 0.39 per cent against the mark.

The U.S. unit declined slightly against other major currencies Monday on profit-taking, after the sharp rise it has experienced last Friday following the Fed's move to increase the federal funds rate from three per cent to 3.25 per cent. This action by the Fed through its open market operations was perceived as a planned move towards a tighter monetary policy in the U.S. Some analysts, on the other hand, speculated that the Fed would not tighten its monetary policy in the short term, basing their speculation on expectations of low inflation levels in the U.S. The dollar was also affected negatively against the mark by rumours that the Bundesbank intends to intervene in the market by selling dollars, despite an announcement by the bank's chairman indicating no concern over the last rise of the dollar against the mark.

On the other hand, the dollar retreated against the yen in view of continued speculation that the Clinton administration might push for a stronger yen, if the U.S.-Japan trade talks did not show substantial progress. The speculation increased, especially after the U.S. treasury secretary expressed the importance of substantial progress in these talks during the summit at the end of the week between the U.S. president and the Japanese prime minister.

The U.S. unit rose sharply against sterling Tuesday, while appreciating modestly against the mark and stabilising against the yen. The dollar's rally against sterling came after a surprise move by the Bank of England to lower its minimum lending rate from 5.50 per cent to 5.25 per cent. However, rumours that the Bundesbank might intervene by selling dollars, if the dollar continued its rise against the mark, discouraged some market participants from taking long positions on the dollar.

The dollar depreciated modestly against the mark and yen Wednesday, while appreciating against sterling. The dollar was reported to have appreciated almost half a yen during trading hours, in view of reports that the U.S. administration has no intentions to push for a stronger yen if the U.S.-Japan trade talks failed. The U.S. unit, however, retreated against the yen later in the day following comments coming from the Clinton administration, indicating dissatisfaction over the progress in these talks.

These new comments renewed speculation of Washington pushing for a stronger yen against the dollar, and thus, affected the dollar negatively.

The dollar continued its depreciation against the mark in view of expectations of a slight rise in the U.S. January producer price index, which suggests no Fed tightening in the short term. On the other hand, the dollar retreated against the yen on negative speculation concerning the summit the next day, between the U.S. president and the Japanese prime minister, as it renewed fears of the U.S. administration pushing for a stronger yen against the dollar, in order to reduce its trade deficit with Japan.

The U.S. unit depreciated substantially against the yen Friday, while stabilising against the mark and sterling. Its U.S. currency fell to reach 106.80 yen during trading hours, its lowest level against the Japanese currency since the past three months, after the summit between the U.S. president and the Japanese prime minister ended without a trade deal. The failure of the summit renewed speculation of the Clinton administration pushing for a stronger yen against the dollar, and thus, affected the dollar negatively.

Furthermore, comments by President Clinton after the summit added fuel to these speculations. President Clinton was reported as saying added fuel to these speculations. President Clinton was reported as saying that trade problems between the two countries were serious, and that the U.S. would consider its options. However, the dollar rose later in the day in response to long position taking.

On the other hand, the dollar retreated against the mark during trading hours, after the U.S. January producer price index showed a slight rise of 0.2 per cent suggesting no Fed tightening in the short term. Meanwhile, U.S. retail sales for the same month showed a 0.5 per cent decline, compared to a 0.8 per cent rise in the previous month. The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.7542 marks and 107.10 yen, while sterling ended it at \$1.4627.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 13/2/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7030	0.7050
Sterling Pound	1.0267	1.0316
Deutsche Mark	0.4006	0.4026
Swiss Franc	0.4745	0.4769
French Franc	0.1179	0.1185
Japanese Yen*	0.6560	0.6593
Dutch Guilder	0.3571	0.3589
Swedish Krona	***	***
Italian Lira*	0.0415	0.0417
Belgian Franc	***	***

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Buthelezi warns of poll bloodshed

19 parties register for S. African elections

EMPANGENI, South Africa (R) — Mangosuthu Buthelezi warned his followers in a fighting speech Sunday that his Inkatha Freedom Party's (IFP) opposition to South Africa's first all-race elections would bring death and bloodshed.

"It is impossible for me to lie to you and reassure you that the IFP opposition to fighting the elections under the present constitution will not bring casualties, and even death," the Zulu leader told about 10,000 supporters.

Speaking at Ngenyeni township outside the northern Natal town of Empangeni, Mr. Buthelezi added: "It would be equally impossible for me to tell you that the new South Africa was going to bring peace, prosperity and freedom."

Inkatha and its white right-wing allies within the conservative Freedom Alliance have refused to participate in the April 26-28 elections.

Nineteen parties registered with the independent electoral commission by the Saturday midnight deadline, but the government and the African National Congress (ANC) have said the deadline could be extended to accommodate rejectionists before the polls.

Mr. Buthelezi called on his supporters to set up self-defence units.

"If we do not defend our people, no one else will. We must defend our communities with all our might. We must

defend and fight back. We must resist the African National Congress and their Communist surrogates," he said.

More than 14,000 people have been killed in political violence during the past four years of apartheid reform, many of them in feuding between supporters of Inkatha and the ANC, its arch rival for black power.

Mr. Buthelezi said that in future days the whole of South Africa would realise they had been duped by the ANC.

"They will realise that the ANC are in fact merely the puppets of the Communist Party which wants to impose the evil Marxist philosophies on us," he said.

Mr. Buthelezi said the only way Inkatha would contest the elections was if the government and ANC gave in to five demands. "One of our demands is that His Majesty our king (Goodwill Zwelithini) be recognised as the constitutional monarch of KwaZulu-Natal."

He said the ANC did not want federalism which would allow the people of KwaZulu and Natal to rule over themselves.

He said Inkatha was not prepared to let the ANC kill the Zulus, "but if you look at the ethnic cleansing that is taking place in the East Rand, they seem to have started on this kind of genocide."

Zulu King Zwelithini meets President De Klerk for crisis

talks Monday amid fears of violence as his loyal subjects plan to stage a mass show of strength in the streets.

Zulu leaders have called for a stay-away from work and announced plans to send thousands of Zulu reinforcements by bus and train from the Transvaal to their power-base province of Natal for the meeting in Durban on Monday afternoon.

The ruling National Party of President F.W. De Klerk, Nelson Mandela's ANC and the radical black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) were among the parties that registered for the elections for a national Constituent Assembly and all nine regional legislatures.

Other parties running in all elections are the mainly-white Liberal Democratic Party, the African Christian Democratic Party and the African Democratic Movement of Ciskei homeland military ruler Brigadier Oupa Gqozo.

Other are running on a limited or regional basis include: The

Menzi Party (Western Cape), the Dikwankwela Party of South Africa (national), Orange Free State and PWV region around Pretoria-Johannesburg, the Minority Front (national and Natal), the Islamic Party (Western Cape), the Ximoko Progressive Party (national, Northern Transvaal and PWV).

Workers International to Rebuild the Fourth International (Western Cape), the Women's Rights Peace Party (national), Keep It Straight and Simple Party (KISS) (national), the North West Democrats (national), the Workers List Party (national), United People's Front (PWV and Northern Transvaal), South African Women's Party (Western Cape), and the Realiste/Realists Party (PWV).

In a separate development, two people were killed and nine wounded when attackers armed with assault rifles and pistols stormed the Zevenfontein black squatter camp north of Johannesburg Saturday night, police said.

Police spokesman Colonel David Bruce quoted witnesses as saying the attackers were supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, while the victims were apparently members of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress.

Police arrested 21 people and were trying to determine the motive for the attack.

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Parties running on a limited



South African President F.W. De Klerk tastes some of the local food after being made an honorary member of the Makgokwe tribe in Korfhoek in the homeland of Qwaqwa. Mr. De Klerk was on a campaign tour to win black votes (AFP photo).

N. Korea not afraid of sanctions - envoy

BANGKOK (R) — North Korea is unafraid of United Nations economic sanctions because its people have long been accustomed to living successfully in isolation, the North Korean ambassador to Thailand said.

"We are not 'prepared'. We are accustomed. Preparation means starting (to get ready)," one of North Korea's most vocal diplomats, Ambassador Li Do Sop told Reuters at the weekend.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is due to report next week on its negotiations to get North Korea to allow inspections of its suspected nuclear sites.

The United States and its allies believe Pyongyang is building a nuclear bomb, a charge North Korea flatly denies.

But the reclusive North Korean government has refused to allow IAEA inspectors access to suspect sites north of the capital Pyongyang.

The IAEA may declare Pyongyang in breach of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and refer the matter to the U.N. Security Council which could impose economic sanctions.

Mr. Li said such sanctions would be the worst thing the United Nations could do, but would still be ineffective.

The world's last Stalinist-style state, North Korea has few trade links with other nations and has lost much of its economic and political backing since the collapse of commun-

ism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"Since 1945 we have been under the sanctions of the United States. Since liberation our president has taught us we should establish a self-sufficient economy, so now (that's what we have)," Mr. Li said.

For example, he said, "from the beginning the supply of food has been rationed. We keep several years ahead for unexpected things."

As to what North Korea would do for basic necessities like fuel oils and other key commodities, Mr. Li said without elaborating: "We have our sources."

One of Pyongyang's staunchest supporters is its geographical and ideological neighbor China which sent troops to support the north during the 1950-53 Korean War.

China has said it would oppose sanctions if the issue is brought to the Security Council.

South Korea is urging a softer diplomatic approach to the impasse.

North Korea has no intention of shifting its position ahead of the IAEA's Feb. 21 deadline for agreeing to inspections, Mr. Li said.

The IAEA injustice and impartiality against us remains," he said.

North Korea went back to the table with the IAEA after agreeing to limited inspections in high-level contacts between Pyongyang and Washington in

December, Mr. Li said. The IAEA is now going beyond what was agreed in those talks by asking for full-scale inspections, he said.

A discussion of full-scale inspections should be left to a third round of bilateral talks with the United States because it is a political, not a scientific, issue, Mr. Li said.

North Korea also believes the United States reneged on its promise in December to stop the annual joint military exercise in South Korea called Team Spirit, which Pyongyang has long called a rehearsal for an invasion of the North.

A Japanese newspaper earlier this month reported the United States and South Korea had agreed to hold a scaled-down version of the wargames in late March if the IAEA deadline is ignored.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said a decision would be announced around March 10.

The United States and South Korea will postpone a final decision on the deployment of Patriot anti-missile batteries in South Korea until after the report next week on North Korea's nuclear programme, South Korean news reports said Sunday.

The reports quoted South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sungho as saying in Washington that he and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry agreed to take "a final decision" on the deployment after the IAEA's planned report on North Korean nuclear sites.

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Savimbi: No side can win Angolan war

LONDON (R) — UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi said Saturday no side could win the Angolan civil war and he favoured a continuation of the Lusaka peace talks with the government, Portugal's RDP reported.

"For Angola a military solution is a totally futile exercise because no one will win the war," Mr. Savimbi said in remarks broadcast by the radio.

RDP, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, carried parts of an interview Mr. Savimbi gave in the UNITA stronghold of Huambo to a television station.

"Once again the MPLA (government) is demonstrating that, although material is important, it does not have the men to fight. This could go on for years," said Mr. Savimbi.

"Therefore we intend to continue negotiating in Lusaka. If it was possible to obtain an overall ceasefire, then this would be ideal."

RDP said Savimbi gave assurances that UNITA would continue to negotiate with good will and determination, but that it has enough weapons to carry on fighting for many years.

Angolan Social Affairs Minister Norberto Dos Santos said Saturday that United Nations aid flights to the central city of Cuito, suspended a week ago because of shelling by UNITA rebels, would resume Monday.

Mr. Dos Santos told the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) that the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) had received guarantees from UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) that fighting in Cuito would stop in one or two days.

"We are still waiting to see, but if the WFP does start to fly to Cuito again, we will lift the prohibition on them also flying to UNITA-controlled areas," Mr. Dos Santos said.

The MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government said Thursday it was suspending permission for aid flights to Huambo until the rebels allowed aid to be flown into Cuito.

LUSA, reporting from Luanda, quoted military sources as saying fighting continued in Cuito Saturday with UNITA using long-range artillery.

Local reports say 300 people have been killed in Cuito since the latest violence erupted Saturday with only a brief period of calm from Tuesday to Thursday.

UNITA and the MPLA, locked in battle since Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975, signed a peace deal in 1991 which broke down after UNITA rejected its defeat in elections in 1992. Cuito has been under rebel siege since early last year.

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Kazakh leader wants nuclear deal from Clinton

ALMA-ATA (R) — Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev will seek at least \$1 billion in compensation for nuclear disarmament when he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington this week.

Mr. Nazarbayev left Sunday on a visit aimed at developing trade and diplomatic links with Washington, which sees his country as a cornerstone of a new security system in former Soviet Central Asia.

In an interview last week, Mr. Nazarbayev said Kazakhstan supported the destruction of nuclear weapons on its soil but said it wanted a fair share of U.S. compensation.

"On the issue of compensation, justice must be for all of us," he said. "When we talk about Kazakhstan, any compensation we receive will be misused compared to what we have suffered as a nuclear state."

The shrewd ex-Communist, whose country became a nuclear power along with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, hopes to play the nuclear option as a way of attracting serious attention and money from the West.

"We want at least \$1 billion in U.S. compensation in return for giving up nuclear weapons on our territory," Kazakh First Deputy Foreign Minister Kasimzhumay Tokayev told Reuters.

The figure will be mentioned during the talks in Washington between Mr. Clinton and President Nazarbayev, Mr. Tokayev said.

Kazakhstan has bent over backwards to meet U.S. demands on nuclear disarmament, ratifying the START-I treaty last year and signing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Its 108 SS-18 Inter-continental Ballistic Missiles are based in silos and carry more than 1,400 warheads. Vast sums of money are needed to make the sites safe. Kazakh officials say \$85 million pledged by the U.S. is not enough.

A leading Moscow newspaper Saturday quoted Russian defence sources as saying nuclear missiles in Kazakhstan were dangerously under-maintained and under-protected.

surprising thing is that up to now no one has stolen a single atomic bomb," Izvestia said.

A Kazakh spokesman angrily rejected the report as an attempt on the eve of Mr. Nazarbayev's trip to stir up the international community against Kazakhstan on the nuclear issue.

Many Kazakh officials believe their country deserves a more generous reward from Washington for giving up its weapons.

They note that Ukraine, which took a much tougher line, has been promised \$1 billion in compensation in the form of uranium from warheads which it can use in nuclear power stations.

Mr. Nazarbayev, who rules the second biggest ex-Soviet republic stretching over 2.6 million square kilometres from China's border to the Caspian Sea, also wants U.S. security guarantees in return for disarmament, U.S. diplomats said.

They said the two presidents will sign the U.S. charter on democratic progress which foresees the creation of a strategic alliance between Kazakhstan and the United States.

Kazakhstan's security dilem-

mas are complicated by the fact that it is surrounded by nuclear powers such as Russia, China and Pakistan. Some diplomats question whether Mr. Nazarbayev will consider it prudent to surrender Kazakhstan's nuclear arsenal.

"Nazarbayev wants serious security guarantees from the United States... If there is a threat to Kazakhstan, the United States must do everything to protect it. But it is too early to talk about such commitments," said one diplomat.

"More than anything, Mr. Nazarbayev's visit to Washington will be a big photo opportunity," he added. "At the moment, few people in the United States know where Kazakhstan is. Nazarbayev's visit will put the country on the world map."

On the economic front, U.S. oilmen hope the visit will smooth Chevron's multi-billion-dollar Kazakh oil contract.

Chevron, the fourth biggest U.S. oil company, signed the deal last year to develop the Tengiz Oilfield which Kazakh officials say has the potential to produce 1.6 million barrels of oil a day by 2010, ranking it alongside some of the biggest fields in Saudi Arabia.

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WHO announces breakthrough on malaria vaccine

GENEVA (AFP) — Researchers have made a major breakthrough in the search for an effective vaccine against malaria, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced Sunday.

Early results from a clinical trial in Tanzania show a new prototype vaccine, SPF66, releases "a strong immune response" in the body against malaria "without undesirable side-effects," the WHO said.

"The Tanzanian test shows we have come more than half-way," said Doctor Tore Godal, who head of tropical disease research. Malaria, which kills nearly a million children every year in Africa, is particularly virulent in Tanzania.

The new drug was developed by Manuel Patarroyo, director of the National Institute of Immunology at the University of Bogota in Colombia, who passed on the rights to the prototype last May.

It has already been tried on more than 41,000 volunteers in Latin America, proving effective against the most lethal form of malaria, protecting up to 66 per cent of adults and 77 per cent of children.

But the WHO said the Tanzania tests, on 45 people, were "much more serious," having been carried out in "very intense transmission conditions."

Inhabitants in the region where they were carried out suffered about 100 times more mosquito bites than in Colombia, with up to 25 bites per night by infected mosquitoes reported during the rainy season.

The success of the Tanzania tests has paved the way for the final phase of testing, with initial results expected in October this year.

Still more tests over the next two years could mean an effective vaccine in widespread use by 1998, the Geneva-based organisation said.

The cost of the new vaccine is not expected to be a problem. Dr. Patarroyo was cited by the WHO as saying that when fully developed the vaccine could cost less than \$5 per injection.

Malaria affects two billion people around the world but 90 per cent of cases arise in Africa, where it results in up to three million deaths every year, a third of them among children under five.

Malaria larva enter the body through mosquito bites, travel to the liver and incubate. The mature parasite re-enters the bloodstream and multiplies, robbing the body of haemoglobin and iron.

The disease is currently battled with insecticides and treated with certain drugs, but people who live in malaria-plagued regions cannot take the drugs constantly because the parasites become resistant to medication.

U.S. east coast digs out after major snowstorm

NEW YORK (R) — North-eastern transportation hubs returned to near normal early Sunday and winter-weary travellers began reaching their destinations after days of struggle caused by the worst snowstorm in more than a decade.

Freezing drizzle and light snow were reported in a wide area from Baltimore to Boston in the hours shortly after midnight but there was no hint of any repeat of Friday's knockout punch that paralysed the region with a foot (30 cm) to 18 inches (45 cm) of snow.

Two lines in New York City's subway system were still unable to operate but police reported an unusually quiet Saturday night as piles of snow began turning to puddles of slush.

All major airports were open and trains and buses were running on time.

New Yorkers Saturday ventured out and filled supermarket aisles, stocking up on supplies. Video stores reported unprecedented rental business.

Children and their sled-carrying parents thronged the city's Central Park, and cross-country skiers took advantage of the snow-clogged sidewalks and parks to get in some exercise.

The Hudson River resembled an Arctic ice flow, and parked cars remained buried under mountains of snow.

Accumulations were the highest since a 1983 blizzard, soaked the city with 18 inches (45 cm). The latest storm left a foot (30 cm) of snow in New York City.

Both Kennedy and Newark airports reopened after being closed most of Friday, and by midnight the terminals were cleared of passengers, some who waited days to leave.

Spokesmen for major U.S. airlines said that weather permitting, they hoped those airports and Laguardia would be operating normally.

Forecasters said that except for northern New England, there was little threat of any new weekend accumulation with drier air to follow for the morning commute Monday.

The Long Island Rail Road, devastated by the Friday storm, said it was spending the weekend trying to get ready for the daily onslaught of 250,000 passengers Monday morning.

The floral industry was one of those hard hit by the snow, which disrupted deliveries for Monday's Valentine's Day.

An industry trade group asked mayors in snow-hit cities to declare it "Valentine's week" to help give florists the chance to recoup.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, whose recent controversial trip to the United States has incensed opponents of the Irish Republican Army, said his party would not be intimidated by such attacks.

He also accused security forces of colluding in attacks on Irish Republicans, who seek to overturn British rule in Northern Ireland and unite the province with Ireland to the south.

Other outlaws Protestant extremist group, the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), claimed responsibility for the attack, its second on Sinn Fein's West Belfast Headquarters in less than a week.

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Woman hurt in N. Ireland bomb blast

BELFAST (R) — A woman was injured in a bomb explosion at Craigavon in the southern Northern Ireland county of Armagh, police said.

They said first reports indicated she was hurt by a booby trap device that exploded in or near a car in a mainly Catholic area of the town.

The woman suffered injuries to her hands, face and body. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Earlier Saturday Protestant extremists fired a rocket through a window of the Belfast headquarters of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, causing damage but no injuries.

Sinn Fein officials said the fortified building was empty at the time of the attack but a meeting of party members had been scheduled to take place there shortly afterwards.

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Brazil explodes in carnival celebration

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Carnival fever exploded in Rio de Janeiro as thousands of people crowded the streets in the pre-lent festival of dance, music and song. The crowds began to come out in the mid-day heat, many in skimpy costumes, for the many street balls and fairs. Rio was expected

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ties with Israel can wait — Hassan II

CAIRO (R) — King Hassan of Morocco said in an interview published on Sunday that diplomatic relations between Morocco and Israel could wait for a year or so. Morocco also needed a decision by the Arab League before it let Israel open an embassy, he said. The interview was published in the international Arabic newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat. "The matter is not in the hands of the Moroccan government alone. It was the Arab League that decided to break relations so it's up to the league to let each country normalise relations," he said. "I think that if talks progress between Israel and Syria and between PLO and Israel, then the time for normalisation will be soon," he added. "How many years have passed without relations? Forty years. We can wait a year or some months, because politics is like farming, everything must be done at the right time." Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres stopped in Morocco on their way back from signing a self-rule agreement with the PLO in Washington last year. Israeli politicians have often visited Morocco although the two states have no formal relations. King Hassan said Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres told him in September that their only concern was to make the PLO-Israeli agreement work. "We must succeed with the Gaza-Jericho solution," he quoted them as saying.

'Sudan mosque killers sought Tourabi'

KHARTOUM (R) — Gunmen who killed 16 people in Sudan in an attack on an Omdurman mosque intended to assassinate the powerful Islamic leader Hassan Al Turabi, a Sudanese newspaper said on Sunday. Al Sudan Al Doula did not explain why the gunmen targeted the mosque, belonging to the Ansar Sunna sect of which Dr. Turabi is not a member. But it said they aimed to kill him. Dr. Turabi is the leader of the National Islamic Front. It is technically banned but Dr. Turabi is immensely powerful and is considered the architect of Sudan's move towards Islamic rule. The attack on the mosque on Feb. 4 killed 16 people and wounded at least 20. The newspaper also said a Sudanese had been arrested in connection with the raid. He was the fourth suspect detained. The man, seized in Roseires 460 kilometres southeast of Khartoum, left the capital the day before the attack but had confessed to being involved in its planning, it said.

Saudi watchdog shuts women clubs

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi religious police have ordered the closure of women's health clubs, a centre owner said. The order was issued two weeks ago to clubs and hotels which run women-only gymnasiums and pools, the owner told AFP, asking not to be named. Dozens of health clubs in Riyadh and the other Saudi cities offer sports and swimming facilities exclusively to women, often along with beauty care. The religious police, or the "mutawain," strictly enforce the Islamic code.

Chad: Libya reinforces Aouzou troops

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad said Sunday Libya had increased its troops in the Aouzou strip since a decision by the international court of justice awarding the disputed territory to Chad. "Since the publication of the verdict of the international court of justice in the Hague last Feb. 3, we have seen a significant reinforcement of Libyan forces in Aouzou," a presidency statement said. "Raids are being carried out within the Chadian community living in Libya and groups hostile to the Chadian government are being revived." The 20-year dispute over the territory has twice erupted into war between the two countries. Libyan troops have occupied the 110,000-square-kilometre Aouzou Strip since 1973, but at hearings before the court last summer, Libya claimed some 500,000 square kilometres of desert thought to contain oil and uranium. Libya argued the border had never been legally defined and its territory stretched south to the 15th Parallel, deep inside Chad. The statement said a delegation led by Chad's Civil Service and Labour Minister Wadel Abdel Kader Kamougue would go to Tripoli on Monday with a message for Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. "This sending of this delegation is an illustration of the goodwill of the Chadian government to open a new era of friendly and trusting relations between the Chadian and Libyan peoples," it said.

Russia takes shipment of Iraqi uranium

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia has received a final consignment of enriched uranium extracted from research reactors in Iraq under U.N. resolutions that followed the Gulf war. Interfax news agency reported Sunday. The report, quoting a well-informed source, said a large shipment of the uranium was airlifted from Baghdad to Koltsovo airport near the Ural city of Yekaterinburg. From there it was shipped overland to a nuclear research centre in the closed city of Chelyabinsk-65 for reprocessing, the report said, giving no further details on when the consignment arrived. Russia has since last year been reprocessing nuclear material from Iraq in line with United Nations orders and under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy (IAEA). The report said the latest shipment brought to an end the operation for transferring nuclear materials from Iraq to Russia.

Rafsanjani's brother replaced as broadcasting chief

NICOSIA (Agencies) — A key Iranian minister was appointed Sunday to head the state-run radio and television network, amid a crusade against Western culture and growing official concern over public disenchantment with the Islamic revolution.

Ali Larijani, minister of culture and Islamic guidance, takes over from Mohammad Hashemi, who ran the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting for 13 years, Tehran Radio reported.

The broadcast did not say who would take over Mr. Larijani's portfolio, or say if Mr. Hashemi, younger brother of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, had been given another job.

Tehran Radio said Mr. Larijani's appointment was decreed by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, for a five-year period. The position is one of the most important in the country.

Mr. Larijani also was made a member of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution. Ayatollah Khamenei's lengthy decree called on Mr. Larijani to devise a new plan to transform the network into a "base to enlarge thinking and culture, and a centre to guide the Muslim people of Iran and other admirers of Iran's revolutionary call," the radio said.

Ayatollah Khamenei underscored that "the final aim of all programmes must be to counter the cultural, news and propaganda invasion" of the West.

Last year, the Majlis, or parliament, criticised the network for airing Western films and programmes at a time when the government is officially at war with the West's "cultural onslaught."

Western pop music and video tapes of Hollywood movies are the rage among Iranian youth.

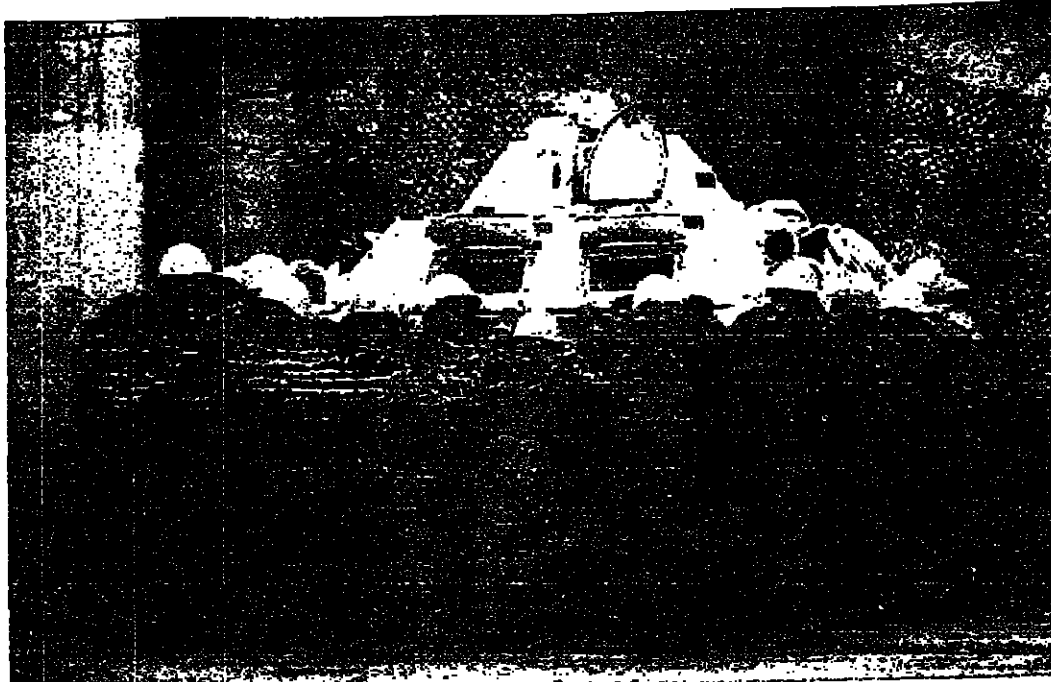
The official media still harps on "the achievements" of the 1979 revolution, which overthrew the pro-Western monarchy, and the "sacrifices" of martyrs and veterans of the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

But almost half of the country's 60 million population is below 16 years of age. The emerging generation is too young to remember the revolution or to have fought in the war.

It is a generation more interested in pop music, Hollywood movies distributed by underground video clubs and the ever-popular satellite dish.

"Video equals inviting prostitutes of east and west to your homes," exhort slogans painted on walls around Tehran.

Newspapers estimate there are more than a million video cassette recorders in Iran, about one in every 10 homes.



Ukrain U.N. soldiers push one of their tanks that broke down Sunday in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Air strikes within minutes if Serbs fire, Perry says

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) planes could stage air strikes on Bosnian Serb forces shelling Sarajevo within minutes of an attack, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday.

"From the time of the impact it's a matter of seconds to get the information coordinates to an airplane," Mr. Perry said in a television interview.

As NATO had some 160 planes in place and was providing permanent air cover, an aircraft could be in place to hit the attacking artillery "in the matter of a minute or two," Mr. Perry said.

The NATO last week gave Bosnian Serb forces besieging Sarajevo until Feb. 21 to withdraw their heavy artillery from the hills overlooking Sarajevo or hand them over to the United Nations, or face air strikes.

But Mr. Perry, and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe who was interviewed on the same programme, stressed that the airstrikes threat was part of a two-prong strategy which also sought a political solution to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

3 Chinese kidnapped in Yemen as 3 French freed

SANAA (Agencies) — Three Chinese technicians helping to build a road in northeast Yemen have been kidnapped, a Chinese diplomat said here Sunday, a day after Yemeni tribesmen freed three French tourists.

The Chinese were abducted in a mountainous area while building a road between Hija, 127 kilometres north of Sanaa and Maareb, 173 kilometres east of the capital, the diplomat said.

It was not clear when the technicians were kidnapped or by whom, he said. "We are pursuing our investigation."

The three technicians were working under the terms of a Yemen-Chinese cooperation accord. In the 1980s China helped the former North Yemen build several roads, including one between Sanaa and Hija.

On Saturday Ahnoum tribesmen freed three French tourists they had held for 20 days in a bid to force the government to build a road through their northwestern region.

Retired French agriculture

commander warned Bosnia's warring sides to stop fighting, saying the NATO's threat to use air strikes applied to all three factions.

"I would caution all the warring factions to stop (fighting) because we are ready to respond," said U.S. Admiral Jeremy Boorda, NATO commander of Allied forces in Southern Europe.

"The U.N. and NATO mandates do not specify one party. They specify (withdrawal of) the weapons of all the warring factions," he added.

Adm. Boorda, U.N. Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and U.N. peacekeeping commanders spoke to reporters at Zagreb airport after consultations about the NATO ultimatum.

Bosnian Serb forces meanwhile resumed surrendering their Sarajevo siege weapons to U.N. control after earlier calling a halt to the handover, a U.N. official said.

"At least five artillery guns were handed over by the Serb side today and more weapons were delivered by both sides but I'm still waiting for the

exact numbers," said Major Jose Labandeira.

The resumption of the handover came within hours of a statement by General Manojlo Milovanovic, chief of staff of the Bosnian Serb army, that he had ordered his forces to stop giving in heavy weapons.

He said he ordered the halt because the United Nations had failed to neutralise rival Bosnian government. There was no immediate explanation for the apparent change of mind.

The surrender of weapons by both sides, part of a U.N.-brokered truce, was the first step in demilitarising Sarajevo.

Members of the families of U.S. and Dutch embassy officials Sunday joined a growing diplomatic exodus from Belgrade flagged as a response to rising fears over the repercussions of NATO airstrikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But diplomats from countries yet to be instructed by their governments to pack their bags played down the evacuations as part of a Western strategy to convince the Serb side that the airstrike threat was genuine.

Paris imposes exit permits

PARIS (Agencies) — France decreed Saturday that nationals of 13 countries will need exit visas to leave the country, reviving a measure adopted in the mid-1980s.

The countries include Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, North Korea, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Sudan and Yemen. Palestinians will also need the visas.

The decree, signed by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, was published Saturday in the government's official journal, meaning that it took effect as law.

Interior Ministry officials refused to comment on why the order was adopted. It mirrored a measure covering most other countries adopted in 1986.

The earlier measure was stricken in 1992 by the state council, France's highest administrative authority, which found that it violated fundamental rights of movement.

A ministry official said the requirement, to take effect on April 1, was needed because these countries were considered "sensitive."

At least 60 killed in Somali clan war

NAIROBI (Agencies) — About 60 people were killed and more than 5,000 driven out of Somalia's southern port city of Kismayu in battles between rival clans, a clan spokesman said on Sunday.

The Somali Salvation Alliance, a group of 12 factions aligned to Ali Mahdi Mohammad, blamed the clashes on Mr. Ali Mahdi's rival, south Mogadishu warlord Mohammad Farah Aided.

It said the fighting began on Thursday when forces loyal to General Aided's ally Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess attacked a camp at Bullo Xaaji 80 kilometres southwest of Kismayu, occupied by followers of Ali Mahdi ally Mohammad Said Hersi, known as Morgan.

"The estimate we have is that 60 people were killed and some are still missing, but calm has now returned to the city," Dr. Mohammad Omar Jama, the group's Kismayu-based spokesman, told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone.

The battles in Kismayu, gateway to the fertile south, were the worst in six months. Initial reports on Saturday had indicated seven killed and 42 wounded in the fighting which erupted as Western troops stepped up their withdrawal from Somalia.

Dr. Jama said three people were killed during Thursday's dawn raid at Bullo Xaaji and the rest died in the Kismayu clashes. He said many of Col. Jess's militia were captured alive.

He said more than 5,000 of Col. Jess's followers were driven out of the port city by Gen. Morgan's forces. Gen. Morgan himself was away from Kismayu on a tour of the northeastern region.

In Nairobi, the group of 12 urged Gen. Aided, who has been in the Kenyan capital for the last four weeks, to renounce violence and join the group in a search for peace.

"The group of 12 earnestly invites the SNA (Aided's Somali National Alliance) to renounce terrorism, stop its aggression on other regions, reconfirm its adherence to the Addis Ababa peace agreement and U.N. resolutions," a statement said.

United Nations officials see Kismayu as a flashpoint for renewed civil war with the pull-out of U.S. troops and their Western allies from Somalia by March 31.

The U.N. said its Indian and Zimbabwean peacekeeping contingents based in Kismayu were not involved in the fighting.

Dr. Jama said Kismayu was quiet and back to normal on Sunday but aid workers who left on Saturday said violence was expected to resume after forces regrouped.

They believe the Kismayu fighting is a prelude to more clashes as clans jockey for position to fill a power vacuum caused by the withdrawal of the U.S. and other Western units.

Germany withdraw

More than 100 grinning and visibly relieved German soldiers left Somalia on Sunday in the first wave of some 1,400 troops due home, like their American counterparts, by the end of next month.

At Mogadishu port they boarded the frigate Koeln which will ferry them along the Indian Ocean coast to Mombasa, Kenya.

The German government wanted to avoid flying them out of Mogadishu in case of attack by Somali militiamen. From Mombasa they will fly to Cologne, western Germany. Germany decided to pull its troops out last year after Washington announced the withdrawal of all U.S. forces following bloody clashes with Aided militiamen.

The departure of the first German soldiers deployed under arms outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation area since World War II has left mounting banditry in Belet Huen.

Relief workers from three agencies pulled out of Belet Huen, 300 kilometres north-west of Mogadishu after a grenade blast at the compound of the U.S.-based International Medical Corps (IMC) on Saturday.

It was the latest in a spate of attacks against foreign aid workers that have forced relief officials to shut down operations in several towns around the country.

Duchess of York in Croatia

ZAGREB (R) — Britain's Duchess of York arrived in the Croatian coastal city of Split Saturday to help promote humanitarian aid to Bosnian children. The duchess accompanied the delivery of 105 tonnes of aid organised by the U.S. American Red Cross. "Apart from food, medicine and clothes I have brought a little bit of joy for the children of Bosnia," she said, pointing to a hand-made teddy bear. The Croatian News Agency (HINA) quoted her as saying that 600 British women had made dolls for Bosnian children. The duchess, whose marriage to Prince Andrew ended nearly two years ago in separation, is one of Americans' "ambassadors" promoting humanitarian relief for Bosnia's needy. Much of the aid is carried to Bosnia overland from Split. The duchess, or "Fergie" as she is known in Britain because of her maiden name of Fergusson, was scheduled to leave for New York Saturday night, HINA said.

Daily confirms Deng's ailing health

HONG KONG (AFP) — One of Hong Kong's pro-Beijing newspapers, in an unusual acknowledgement, indicated Sunday that the health of China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping might be slipping. In a report from Shanghai, Wen Wei Po confirmed that Mr. Deng, 89, had to be held by the arms by two of his daughters when he attended a Lunar New Year party there last Wednesday. "Compared with the year before, Deng looked thinner," added the Chinese-language daily, which is often used by Beijing to release sensitive information. The report contrasted with a semi-official China News Service dispatch, carried in other pro-Beijing newspapers Sunday, which claimed Mr. Deng was in "high spirits" and "walked steadily." Similar words had been used to describe Mr. Deng when China's state television carried footage of the Shanghai reception last Thursday, when the four-day Lunar New Year holiday began. Foreign and Chinese viewers who saw the images agreed that Mr. Deng was showing clear signs of deteriorating health, including fumbling steps and a vacant look in his eyes.

Russian deputies paid twice Yeltsin's salary

MOSCOW (AFP) — The salary of a Russian parliamentary deputy is almost double that of President Boris Yeltsin, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Citing a deputy from the lower house of parliament, the State Duma, the agency said lawmakers received more than 800,000 rubles (\$500) per month compared with Mr. Yeltsin's 450,000 rubles (\$280). Sergei Yushenkov, a deputy of the reformist Russia's Choice grouping, said deputies' salaries were boosted by a number of extra allowances, whereas Mr. Yeltsin's salary was fixed under rules introduced at the start of the year.

Minister declines to fund brothels in rural town

ATHENS (AP) — Minister of Labour Evangelos Yanniopoulos has rejected a request by a Communist-controlled Construction Workers' Union to fund brothels in their rural town. The union in Lavadhia, 110 kilometres (70 miles) northwest of the capital, urged the Socialist minister in a letter "not to neglect the needs of rural Greece." The English language daily Athens News reported. "Greece is not just Athens. We would like to turn your attention to a problem facing our town. As you perhaps know, our town is lacking in brothels. We urge you to spend some of your energies in helping us create a few, and help with funding... our town has no theatres, no cinemas, no proper sports facilities and of course, no brothels. Its too much," the union's letter said. Mr. Yanniopoulos who has had highly publicised clashes with unions and men of letters over his proposal to give workers free nightclub tickets.

THE ABU - LUGHOD INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

(ON THE WAY TO BE ACHIEVED SOON)



Dr. Abu Lughod signs a contract with Shbeilat, Badran Associates

Dr. Mohammad Abu Lughod signs a contract with the Universal Hospital Services

A series of studies, research and meetings with distinguished local medical authorities in Jordan, to establish a new modern hospital with a sophisticated research centre lead to signing a consultancy contract with Shbeilat-Badran Associates (SBA) and Universal Hospital Services (UHS) for design, supervision equipment consultancy and management of the Abu-Lughod International Hospital which will be constructed on an 8000m² plot of land on the main road between Al-Husseini Sport City and Al-Rasheed suburb.